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To



The BOOKSELLER to the READER.

Courteous Reader,

THOU art here presented with a
Nowell Banquet, which in the
pleasantness and Variety of the Subject,
and the several Comical and sur-
prizing Circumstances, I am confident
will be no less Grateful to Thee than
I intend it. I must confess, the Cri-
tical Palats of the Age have been too
much Nauseated with lean and Fejune
Discourses of this Nature, especially
when the Regalio has been prepared
by unskilful Hands; But this being
both the Business and Diversion of a
Person eminent at Court for Wit and
Parts; I dare Promise Thee the
Polynant Relish, which will not
but satisfie the most Curious or t.

A 2 severel

To the Reader:

severest Judge. These ensuing Histories were writ by a Worthy and Learned Pen, at the Request of some Gentlemen and Ladies, and now Publish'd from his own Manuscript, that the more Ingenious Part of the World may share in that Recreation, which was at first design'd for the private Entertainment of some Persons of Honour. The Stories are here told under seigned Names, that we might preserve that Respect and Reverence due to their Title and Grandeur.

But I shall no farther inhaunce thy Expectation of the following Treatise; An Invitation is Civil and Modish, and so far I only offer it, though I do Question but every Guest will meet b a Dish will give him some ob-
eving Gusto.



THE
INTRODUCTION

The Noble Melintus, whose Arms abroad had been no less successful than his Amours at Court, the one Rendring his Name equally terrible to his Foes, as the other did his Person, Lovely to those Beautious Ladies his Generous Addresses had Acquainted him with ; On a sudden forsook the Court, and Sigh'd away his bitter Hours in a Solitary Retirement. When the News was Spread, the Noble Melintus was withdrawn, it rais'd a Wonder in all ; His own Merits having Gain'd him more then Ordinary favour from his Prince, and his Courtly presence, and Obliging Mean, Won a respect from all that knew him. The Count his Uncle more particularly Enquired the Reason of his present discontent, from whom at length with much difficulty, he forced a dis-

covery. I must, my Lord, (says Melintus)
 Bless that Happy Minute when first I
 saw the Matchless *Corinna*, and Curse the
 Severity of my Stars whose kinder
 Influence ought to have given Her more
 constancy, or me less concern, for that
 Loss, I now but in vain Lament, Shee's gone ! My Lord, Shee's lost to Me for
 ever ! My hated Rival now Surfeits
 with delights in those Curling Armes I
 once thought mine ; Every kill he takes
 is a Blessing stoln from Me, nor has He
 Honour enough to pity, but Scorns,
 laughs at my Miseries, and with the Me-
 mory of my sufferings, whets his Cloyd
 Appetite to fresh Enjoyments, Melintus
 would have proceeded, but the Count having
 now the true Cause of his Melancholy, chose
 rather to divert his Passion then Encourage
 it by a further discourse upon the same Un-
 happy Subject ; And like a subtle Rhetori-
 cian with undiscerned Charms, led his
 heedless Auditor wide from his present
 Theme of Sorrow, to a more soft and Comi-

(5)

cal Entertainment : And when he took
leave promis'd to send Geronto, his old witty
Companion, and some others of his Friends,
both Gentlemen and Ladies, the next Af-
ternoon to Visit him ; Whose facetious Hu-
mours, and pleasant Conversation would
divert his Melanchely, and prove themost
powerful Cordial to recover a dispairing Lo-
ver. Accordingly the next day, Geronto,
Lysander, Florimel and Aurelia, went
over to Barn-Elms, where Melintus had
for some days past Conceal'd himself, that
he might more luxuriously Indulge his
discontented thoughts free from the Trouble
of Ceremonious Visitants. No sooner had
they saluted Melintus, whose Cloudy Fore-
head spoke the present Anguish of his Soul ;
But in came Parmenio and Philotas, each
leading his Asistress, the fair Evadne and
Beautifull Theodosia. Melintus was not
a little Surpriz'd to see his Friends Crowd
in so fast upon him, when Geronto (their
Mutual Civilities being past) began to Rally
Melintus with such sharp Excursions as his
great

great Wit had always priviledg'd him to
at Court, and his Intimate acquaintance
might now more freely Challenge from his
Friend, the little bickerings with Repartees
being over, in which the Ladies, especially
Florimel, lost no advantage, they fell upon
more Compos'd Discourses, and as nothing
could be more agreeable to the Company, nor
any Subject more proper then that of Love,
Geronto whose Talent was great that way,
first broke the Ice, and began with this
Harangue,

NOVEL the First.

By GERONTO.

A Gentleman, younger Brother of a very good Family in the West of England, having had the advantage of a Liberal Education at the University of Cambridge, left those happy Walls, esteeming that sort of Collegiate Imprisonment too narrow for his more aspiring and ambitious Thoughts, which now began to feel the heats of Love, and Warmer desires of attaining that pitch of Honour and Reputation his Ancestors had Arrived to. Having thus taken leave of his Studies, he return'd into the Countrey to receive the plentiful provision his Father had by Will assigned him, which amounted to 4000 li. on which foundation (tho' Inconsiderable to what his elder Brother enjoy'd) he doubted not to raise as Substantial a fortune by his Industrious Improvement as his Birth-right had deny'd him: With this Intention, knowing the Barren Soyl of a Countrey

B

Life,

Life, was not so fit to accomplish his designs as the more fruitful emploiments that attende i a Court and City, he repaired to *London*: But bringing with him a Temper too Generous to Flatter, and too Gentle to Cozen, he quickly found without the first he must expect no preferment at Court, and wanting the Second it was Impossible to advantage himself amidst a Crowd whose only patrimony was their craft. In the midst of these Thoughts he had often resolv'd to return to themore innocent diversions of the Countrey; But finding himself intangled in his Affairs, and engaged in the acquaintance of the Town Gallants, who at first had insensibly wrought him into their Society, by those Nets and Subtletys they spread to catch the heedless and Unwary; And being softned by the charms and allurements of the fairer Sex, to whose Visirs he was every day enticed, he found it impossible to discharge himself of these Inconveniences, tho' he had before his Eyes the most dismal prospect of misery, and inevitable Ruine of his Fortunes which now began to consume apace, and in three years time the whole Treasure was quite Exhausted. His Companions who had so oftein been reliev'd by his Generous kindness were so far from pitying or Assisting him in these distresses, that like the Summer

Birds,

Birds, they left his Winter'd Quarters to seek a Spring in some warmer Climate, without the least Gratitude or kind remembrance of those Lavish kindnesses with which they had been so often refresh'd ? In thi. Condition, Repentance, the usual Comrade of d. Strels, presented her wrinkled Face to the poor undone Youth, and brought into his Thoughts his former miscarriages, but with all left him desitut of any obliging Clue to Extricate himself from the Labyrinth his follies and Misfortunes had Insnar'd him in. How ready he then was to curse the Influence of those Starrs that frown'd at his Birth, and Rais'd in his own Breast an Enemy against himself; To blame his past Improvudence, and all the Obliquityes of his former Conduct ; They can best Judge who have seen and known how few Friends adversity affords, and how the pleasures of former prosperity are the bitterest Ingredients of present Calamity.

In this deplorable Estate after that by renew'd solicitations he had wearied all his Friends, Poverty began to grow Shamefull, his wonted Embroideryes were now worn into Rags, the Treats and Regalias' with which he had tired out the day, and Stole from the Hours of Rest to Solace himself with, now Tantaliz'd his present Hunger ; His Beds of Down and softer

Companions of Nightly Amours, were now no more; a Numerous concourse of Dunns with their Loud Alarms broke his Rest, and like Hornets with their Stinging Demands, perpetually tormented him, and he who but a little before was the Court and admiration of every Flattering Sycophant, is now their Scorn and Laughter. Instead of his Livery'd Attendants, the Staff Officers w^{tch} his Steps, and nothing but the infamy of a Prison and the Gripes of penury, are the thoughts with which he Entertains himself; So that being forc'd to the utmost Extremity, he resolv'd rather with the Prodigal, to return to his Fathers House, than feed upon Husks amongst the *London* Swine; To which End, having Raif'd as much Money as the remains of his Moveables would pledge for, he began his Journey for the West, hoping his Friends would Comiserate his indigent Condition, however one Blessing he was sure of, to be out of the Noise and Clamour of his Ravenous Creditours. His Money being short he was forc'd to Travel on Foot, nor had he Hopes it could carry him to his Journey End, but resolving to trust his better fortune he set forward; And having Travelled three dayes saw the last penny disposed of. The Evening now drew on apace, and he found himself Ex-
treamly,

reamly wearied, no prospect of a Town to lodge at, or Money to pay for't, or other necessaries he had occasion for, going heavily on under so great a load of trouble and discontent, and pondering with himself, if it was altogether impossible for the wit of Man to find out a Remedy for these present Evils, lifting up his eycs, at a distance espied a Countrey Village half a Mile before him, which as soon as he had overtaken, he sat down under a Hedge which belong'd to a Neighbouring House, to consider what course to take to relieve his present want: Upon this Hedge there were several pieces of Linnen hung out to dry, and tho' it was now late in the Evening, yet such was their Security and so great the Honesty of these Countrey Hobs, that they fear'd no filching hand to Thieve them away; the fall Moon which with her Silver Beams supplyed the Brightnes of the Golden day, discover'd the Temptation to him, nor could he observe any Person near to Guard the Hedge: But being never us'd to Steal, he was very loth to begin now, nor was he less Averse to Beg; But urg'd by his extremities he was about to bear away some of the Linnen; when putting his Hand into his Pocket he found a pair of Dice; Are you here still? Said he, here still? To torment, but not assist Me! Oh

base and bewitching Tools, the Wisemans scorn
 Charms to the fool, and Panders to the Knaye !
 here still ; To refresh my Memory how you
 Ruin'd and deceiv'd Me ! I have heard amongst
 your friends you have been Stil'd, the substance
 of hope, the miserable Mans last relief, and is it
 possible to find one fitter to receive your favors
 then my self ; Assist me then, and Umpire be-
 tween my necessity and Honesty, whilst I pursue
 my Intentions to play fairly with this Hedge for
 the Linnen it is Cloathed with, and less needs
 then my dis ressed Shoulders, which want a
 Covering. Yet am I resolved, if you cross my
 hopes, I will yet be Just to my Losses and pay
 what you decree against me, and i you strip me
 I shall then forswear your Assistance for the
 Future, and trust my self Naked to the Charity
 of well disposed Christizns, from whom I will
 hope for that good fortune and Reasonable re-
 lief which you deny me,

Come then and lets try the Chances ; Here
 Mr. Hedge, my Hat against that shirt : 7 is the
 Main, have at it ; 12, Pox ent', out at the first
 Throw ! There't goes again, my Coat agaist
 those two Handkerchiefs and four Aprons, 6 is
 the Main, now 12 good Dice, or I'm undone,
 ha ! 5 to 6, I've the worst on't, b it away, now
Cater Acc, Tra Duce, what are you ? Cater
Duce,

Duce, the Devils in the Dice, then I must strip;
 Curse on ill Luck ! But ne're be faint hearted;
 come, nay Breeches you must go to, 9 is the
 main, have at it : what now, Duce Ace ? The
 Devil take all ill Luck, well, heres stockings
 and Shoes yet, whats there 8 ? Now good
 sweet Honey. Dice be kind, Pox on't, (4) to 8,
 its two to one against me humph ! Sice Duce,
 Iv'e lost it, there's no hopes, Ruine is my porti-
 on, well I have nothing left now but my Shirt,
 and so farewell all ; Here the Dice began to Re-
 pent, and the Spark won back his Clothes, and
 as much Linnen from the Hedge as was necessa-
 ry to supply his present Occasions, nor was he
 covetous of more, which he Pack'd up into a
 Bundle and Trudg'd forward, thanking his Stars
 for his good Success. But not many paces was
 he gone before he was pursu'd by the Owner,
 (who standing undiscover'd behind a Tree was
 an Eye witness of this strange Adventure,) and
 easily overtaken, by whom being question'd a-
 bout the Linnen, he no wayes Endeavour'd to
 Conceal, but Justified himself in the Fact, telling
 him he came honestly by them, and would
 keep them, and make good his Title before any
 Magistrate in England. Enrag'd with this An-
 swer, the Countryman with Loud Out-cryes
 rail'd the Neighbourhood, who pass'd their Cen-
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fure, and with words and blows both threatened
and punished him: In so much that he was forc'd
to desire a Truce and entreat a hearing, but had
he spoke loud as the Northwind the Women
would have Silenc'd him; O Rogue, sayes One,
I'm glad we have found you, now I know how
my Peu'trey went, which I charg'd on the more
innocent Fox, 'tis you *sirrah* had them, and you
shall pay for them. Well said, Neighbour, says
another, let's make an example of him, this is the
Rascal, I believe, came abegging t'other day, and
whilst I was gathering sticks Stole the Beef out
of my Pot, and had like to have Ravish'd my
Daughter. Hang him: Hang him, Thief: Scolds
the Chorus. He endeavour'd to lay this Storm
by mild excuses, telling them he was a Gentleman
and ought to Answer what he had done before a
Magistrate, all which did but the more incense
the Rabble, who had certainly torn him in pieces,
had not a Farmers Daughter, taken with his
Shape and port, persuad'd her Sweet heart
Richard to use his Oratory for the Gentlemen's
safety, which he not at all Curious in, did it to
this effect.

Fy, Neighbours, I think the Devil's in you,
won't you bear a man speak, let Me tell you,
it doth not become us to be Executioners to a
Thief,

Thief, that's the Hangmans Work. If he has been a Rogue let the Taylor hewe him, and the Rope Throttle him, but why should our Hands save them a labour, our Landlord's a Wise Man and a Justice, let's carry him thither, and I warrant you Mr. George his Clerk will quickly take Care to send him where he best deserves.

Away with him, Away with him reply'd the rest, which was no Unwelcome News to *Honorius*, (for so let us hence forth call the Unfortunate Youth) hoping he should find a Gentleman of those Generous Sentiments, who upon the Relation of all Circumstances would Com-miserate his Condition and assist his necessities, they carried him to the House of a very Worthy Gentleman, to whom they represented the Crime with all the complaints and agravations their Country Rhetorique could advance, entreating his Worship to make a publick example of so Notorious an Offender. To which Accusation, the Justice demanded of *Honorius* what he had to say for himself; Who Replyed,

*I shall not Worthy Sir, go about to deny or Evade what I am Charged with, as to the taking away the Goods my Accusers Claim,
but*

but as a Stranger and a Gentleman (however I appear under this disguise of habit) I humbly Entreat your Favour to hear me a few words in private, and I do not doubt but your Worship will then think me not so bainously Guilty as my Accusers woul'd persuade you to.

The Port and demeanour of *Honorius*, together with the gracefulness of his Elocution, so far wrought upon the Justice as to disw ill the Crowd, Restoring to the party his Goods, and giving them his promises that he would take care o' the Criminal.

No sooner were they departed, but *Honorius* proceeded to acquaint the Justice with his condition in every point, and how, urg'd to what he did by the force of irresistible Necessity, which he hop'd his goodness and Charity would rather pity, then punish with the Severity of Law. The Justice extreamly taken with the pleasantness of the Relation, told *Honorius* he was fal'n into such Hands as would not Injure him, rather Contribute to his Relief: But since, pursues he, you are Charg'd with a Crime of this Nature, think not but I will Inflict a punishment on you, and as your Crime is Venial, your punish- shall not exceed it.

All

All that I require of you is that you lye in my House this Night, and take that Accommodations the same can afford you, as to my Table and Cellar, or what else you please to Command; Yet your Lodging must be in a Chamber which has been haunted for these three years past with the Apparition of a Ghost, and so frighted those who have seen it, that no Person yet was ever so hardy to speak to it. If on these Conditions you like to be my Guest, you shall find a hearty Wellcome and a supply to carry you to the place you determine. *Honorius* with a grateful acknowledgement receiv'd the offer, and humbly thank'd the Gentleman for his great favour to him, Telling him he was now doubly Oblig'd to his Misfortunes, as well that he had the Honour of knowing so Worthy a Person, as by this Adventure he might possibly make an Improvement in the Experimental part of *Spectrism*, which in his younger years he had only Read at the University; These and other Compliments much pleas'd the Justice, who led him into the Par-lour, where was his Wife and Daughter, a Person of incomparable Beauty and richly Furnish'd with all the Ornaments of Body and Mind, to whom after he had recounted how the Gentleman,

man had promised him to lye in the Haunted Room, and speak to the Ghost if it did appear; He order'd his Servants to prepare Supper, and in the Interim call'd for Wine to entertain the stranger who thought himself extreamly happy; The time pass'd away in a very agreeable Conversation, and the Justice was not a little pleas'd with the Modest behaviour of *Honorius*, nor did the young Lady his Daughter less admire his person, the vivacity of his Wit and the quaintness of his discourse, which tho' she endeavor'd to hide, plainly appear'd in her kind and Obliging Glances, which *Honorius* soon perceiv'd, and had taken further Incouragement had not the meanness of his present appearance damp't his aspiring Thoughts. But to shorten the Relation, Supper was ended, and the Ladies withdrew to their Chambers, at such time as the old Gentleman conducted *Honorius* to an excellent Room well Furnished with all things convenient and Ornamental, telling him Joeosely. *That must be his Prison for this Night, and as many more as he Thought fit.* And wishing him good Night, Withdraw. The Compliment was returned by *Honorius*: who was well provided with Fire and Candle, and Bottles of Wine, that the Devil might have the less power over him. Being now alone he had leasure to consider his present

Circumstances, when reflecting on the Beauty of the young Lady, and the kind looks she bestowed on him, he began to hope they might be the presages of his better fortune, which now seem'd once again to smile upon him. With these Thoughts he went to Bed not much Concern'd with the apprehensions of what had been told him, yet not altogether slighting the danger he might be in, kept his Candle burning; and being ready to take the Sweets of Rest the Clock struck one, at which time the whole House was very quiet, and not the least Noise to disturb him.

Musing with himself about his present fortune, he thought he heard something Trip along the Gallery before his Chamber, whilst more regardfully attending he saw his Chamber door open, and in a Night dress he percciv'd a Person as he thought enter and take two or three Rounds about the Room, and at length open a Closet door. This Apparition tho' it seem'd not so dismally frightful, yet struck him with a present horrour, which whilst he was more seriously considering, came out of the Closet and took a Second walk in the Chamber, and by degrees came nearer and nearer to his Bed-side, which he diligently observing, his apprehensions of the danger grew stronger upon him, but taking

king courage was resolv'd to speak to it. With this intent looking stedfastly upon it, he thought he beheld the same face of the Young Lady he had seen but some few hours before, this abated his fears and Encourag'd his Resolution. Rising out of his Bed he approached it, which seem'd no thing Shy of his advance, and drawing nearer took it by the hand, which he found soft and warm, and as true Flesh and Blood as his own, and more curiously viewing the Face saw it to be the real Person of the Young Lady, whose Body wak't whilst all her Senses were fast lockt up in the profoundest Sleep. His thoughts were now again at the same puzzle between his own desires and the Ladies Honour, as before they had been between his necessity and Honesty, but the Temptation prov'd too strong for the tender Virtue of Vigorous Youth to withstand. Leading her to his Bed-side he Softly laid her down and plac'd himself by her. But here should I recount the bold Trespass of his Hands, which found nothing of a Ghost about her, or the more daring attempts of his succeeding pleasures, my own Cheeks would blush at the Confidence of my Tongue ; Nor is it possible to speak the Transports *Honorius* felt, I hope your kinder Imagination will supply the defects of my Expression. It is enough, that whilst *Honorius* was Revelling

Reveling in the midst of that Garden of pleasure and stealing the forbidden fruit, the Lady Awaked. She had now been sensible of those delights from the obliging Embraces of her New Bedfellow, a duteous kind Carthus her waking fancy had presented her with, which she had never found from the Cold Arms of her confident *Sylvia*; Whilſt ſhe lay thus conſidering what this ſtrange Dream ſhould be, or if a truth, what it meant; Her ſenses being now more perfectly her own, ſhe diſcover'd her ſelf in another Bed, when hearing her Lovers excuses and the many pardons he beg'd, She was ready to swoon away at ſo strange a Surprizal, Oh Heavens ! Sayes Shee, what haſt thou done ? Oh Ravisher base and Unworthy Guest ; Are theſe thy acknowledgements of my Fathers kindnels : With Charms and Philtres to bewitch my Innocency, hadſt thou no more regard to my spotless honour then thus betray me to perpetual Shame and Ignominy ; Deareſt Madam, replied *Honorius*, if the Arraigned have leave to offer ought to arreſt their Sentence, by the powers of Love, by all that's Sacred to you, Fly not from me before you hear my Defence. Think not, sweet Lady, that to Satisfie the rage of my burning lust or to Grasp ſuch infinite happiness I would affe unworthy means ; Twas fortune gave you to me

Arms, and as well might the Sun disclose his Summer Beams, and the Earth refuse his Bounty, as I Shut my eyes against those glorious Beautyes, whose Charms fir'd my heart, and ravish'd all my Senses; I saw you, Madam, walking in your Sleep, I saw your Naked Beautyes, whose powers even Age it self tho' proud of its boasted abstinence could not resist; and may not youth be pardon'd? If not, Let loose your anger, wrinkle your brow into a Frown, and assure your self it shall be as mortal as the most venom'd or pointed weapon death it self makes use of to destroy the guilty; or if this punishment be too slow for your fleet Revenge, plunge a Dagger in my Breast, which I had rather feel then once hear the dismal sound of that single word, Farewel; Yours Madam, let me live for ever, or fall this minute a welcome Sacrifice to your injur'd Fame, 'tis I, Madam, I confess it, that Violated your unspotted Innocence, pure as the Mountain's Snow, & Chast as the Winters Ice, whom if your Mercy cannot pardon, let your severest Justice Carve a satisfaction from this offending Breast. With these and many other the like expressions did the Amerous Youth sooth the disconsolate Lady, till at last, overcome with his importunities, with Tears of Joy she embrac'd the gladded Lover, and consented he should live. Live then, says she, and let the same bright wi-

nesser of your Trespass and my dishonour; heat our Marriage Vows, and see this Sacred Tie by which I am ever yours. — *Honorius* his best Expressions were now too poor to speak the Raptures of his Soul, nor certainly was ever Bridal Night pass'd over with greater pleasure and delight than this between the two Enamourists, in so much that the Shrill Messenger of the Morn had given Notice of its approach e're their thoughts stay'd from their Enjoyments: But being apprehensive of a discovery, which was not yet ripe for the Fathers Ear with aparting kiss they took leave of each other, the Engaging *Honorius* to make some excuse to prolong his stay, promis'd to return the next night to his Bed; which he receiv'd with all the Gratitude he could express for so great a favour. The Lady was now gone to her own Chamber, and *Honorius* was at leisure to consider the present state of his affairs, how his Shatter'd fortunes were now repair'd, by an Extraordinary providence, beyond all hope or Expectation. This Lady was the only Child of her Parents, and Heiress to a very considerable Estate, and as Valuable for her Virtue, Beauty and all other accomplishments that might complete the Happiness of a Lover, as any of her Sex. Whilst his thoughts were employ'd in these ra-

vishing Contemplations, his Senses began to tire, and he fell asleep at the same time when the Justice and his Lady came into his Chamber, to Enquire how he had pass'd the Night, hearing the door open he Awakened, and after he had feign'd himself discompos'd, he acquainted them it was a real truth the Room was haunted, and that he had seen a Spirit, but he supposed it came so far from Evil, that if ever Angels left their Heavenly abodes to come upon Earth, such was this and no worse; for tho' he had seen and Convers'd with it, yet was he not in the least affrighted, nor did its discourse import any thing of harm to himself or the family, But what it had said he had been by Sacred Vow oblig'd not to discover, till such time as he had seen it again, for the too early Cock had Summon'd it back to its unknown Mansions e're it had finished the Secret it came to discover. The gladded Justice embrac'd his Welcom Guest, and with the kindest words he could express himself, entreated his stay the following Night, & that he wou'd make him happy in his farther Acquaintance; Less powerful Oratory would have perswaded *Honorius* to accept of that he so much coveted; however thankfully returning the Justices Complements he soon after Rose, and Spent the day in the Conversation of his

New Friends. Nor was the Lad y ever from his thoughts, or her blushes from her Cheeks, whenever she Surpriz'd his Strolling Eyes, catching Glances from hers at a distance. In short, the Second Night came, and the long expected hour of Meeting brought our Lovers to each others Arms; the Happy Minutes fled fast in their Mutual Embraces, whilst the Lazy Intervals were Spent in contrivance how they should Gain her Parents consent to finish their Vow'd Espousals. This the Lady undertook: It was now day break when *Emilia* retir'd to Her Chamber, and taking a convenient opportunity that Morning in private, discover'd to her Mother the whole Intrigue of her fortunes, and told her, it being usual with Her to repair to that Chamber in the day time to dress her self, and having often Spent her Hours in Reading in the Closet, being more particularly delighted with the prospect, she believ'd it had been Customary with Her for several years to walk this ther in her Sleep, tho' it was never known till this Lucky Stranger had made the discovery. Nor did she Conceal the Important truth with all the Naked Circumstances, then praising the Generous Education and Endearing Carriage of *Honorius* beg'd her Mother with all the Pathetical Expressions of Love and tenderness, to

intercede with her Father on his behalf; which
sheat last promised. The old Gentleman was
much Surpriz'd at the Relation and severly
Blam'd her unlawful Loves, but at the same
time considering the Violence of his Daugh-
ters affection, and the Honour of his Family,
consented to Her Wishes, and went with them
~~to Honorius~~ his Chamber, whom he Saluted his
Son in Law, and soon after Ordered the Con-
summation of their Nuptials, which were Cele-
brated with all Imaginable Joy and Splendour.
About a Month after, *Honorius* and his Lady in
a Coach and six Horses went down to Visit his
Relations, who all Congratulated his Happy
fortunes, which were soon after increas'd to a
very great Estate by the unexpected Death of
his Elder Brother.

*Geronto having thus Finish'd his Rela-
tion on the whole Company, especially Florimel,*
seem'd extreamly pleased with it ; For in-
deed it was hardly possible for him to speak
to any subject, tho' never so mean and Tri-
vial, but what his great Wit would always
Beautify with those Charming Graces which
won the constant Applause of his Auditors,

an Excellence peculiar to himself in which few could ever Tollerably Imitate him.

Melintus Thank'd him for his pleasant Fancy as he call'd it, and told him a discourse of so much Mirth and Humour might have been better bestow'd for his part, Melancholy had of late so prevail'd upon him that all Comedy was as Harsh to his Ears, as the Clicking of a Death Watch to a Hoerding Miser.

But Madam says he to Aurelia, if you please to Circulate the discourse as of Right it belongs to you, I remember a Story I have formerly had the Honour to hear you tell, which if I mistake not was Tragically Unhappy, but as it then pleas'd with the Sadness of it, I am sure it would much more now, since my Vitiated Palat Relishes nothing but what is Compounded of the bitterest Ingredients.

Sir says Aurelia, I presume you meant the Story of Amasius and Ortelia, but I am afraid I shall unpardonably Transgress the

*Commands of my Lord your Uncle, and the
passion of the Relation will affect you too
sever'y; Tho' who knows but Melancholy,
which is only a more Natural poyson, may
be easiest Expell'd by an Application of its
own Temperament, however, Sir, your Com-
mands will Apologize for me, which I thus
Obey.*

NOVEL the Second.

By AURELIA.

A Young Gentleman whose Name was *Aurelia*, the only Son of an Opulent and well known Merchant of the City of London, after he had been furnish'd with a Competent Share of Learning, to Qualifie him for the study of the Law, was plac'd at the Inns of Court, where the Advantages of his Fortunes and his own Modest behaviour gave him a Welcom reception amongst all his fellow Students. However

after

after he had Spent two years there, his mind inclin'd to Travel, and Communicating his design to his Father, easily obtain'd his consent. After he had seen *France* and *Italy* he came to *Brussels*, and Spent about four Months in *Flanders*, and then remov'd to *Amsterdam*, where Liv'd a Gentleman who was his Fathers correspondent, and an Eminent Merchant, at whose House he was invited to Lodge during his Residence there. This Gentlenian who was of considerable Estate and quality, had great Resort of Company to his House, with whom *Amasius* soon acquainted himself, his Generous conversation and affable Temper rendred him Courted and belov'd by all: He was likewise the Happy Father of three Daughters of so Incomparable Beauty that the whole Countrey could not produce their equals, nor were they less prais'd for a prudent Conduct, and Virtuous Education. With the youngest of these call'd *Ortelia*, it was the fortune of *Amasius* to fall in Love, and as if the same Loadstone had Attracted both their Hearts, the same passionate desires, warmed *Ortelia's* Breast, and tho' both of them were shy of discovering their affections to one another, yet no opportunity was miss'd in which by all the little Arts of Obligation and Kindness

kindness they strove to advance themselves in each others favour, his Courtship was most particularly to her, and her regards and Eye alwayes upon him. If *Amasius* happen'd to sigh, *Oretia* would turn her Face to hide her reply in the same Note ; In this Condition for some Months did they live, whil'st by degrees all the diversions of the Countrey, the Visits of Friends, Balls and Entertainments grew Nauseous to the Lover, and a settled Melancholy seiz'd his Spirits. This was Observ'd by all his Acquaintance, but particularly by the compassionate Eyes of tender *Oretia*, who seem'd very much concern'd least the same (probably) might be for some more Happy Mistreses he had l. st in *England*. Under this anxiety and disquietude she had suffer'd some Weeks, which perhaps had wrought more effectual to her disadvantage, had not *Amasius* one day took an opportunity when she was alone in her Chamber, employ'd upon a piece of curious Needlework, wherein she had drawn the little God smiling at a disconsolate Lady whose Heart he had, newly struck with one of his Feather'd Weapons, prostrate at his Feet, as if she seem'd by her tears and piteous looks to beg his Mercy. Taking notice of the fancy.

Is it possible my dearest Ortelia, says he,
 you should be such an Artist in your Draughts
 of this God of Love, and never feel a Dart
 from his quiver? How know you sir,
 reply'd the Fair One, but what you have
 seen may have a nearer Relation to Me
 then you are pleasd to imagin, and that this
 wounded Lady may be a proper device to
 represent my Unfortunate self; That Ma-
 dam is Impossible (pursues Amasius) for
 then should I view you in another posture,
 I should see you seated on a Throne with
 Crowns and Scepters at your Feet, an Im-
 perial Canopy above your Head, supported by
 admiring Angels, disposing of bleeding hearts
 and my own amongst the Fatal Number. Oh
 Fy! reply'd she, you Complement me Amasius,
 as if I were that Object of your happiest de-
 sires the Seas now part you from, and I can-
 not but believe at the same time you address
 your Commendations to Ortelia, you intend
 them to one more Lovely in your Esteeem. I
 did not think Madam, replies Amasius,
 you was so much a Stranger to your own

perfections, to believe these Eyes could be
so much deceiv'd, as to place my respects on
any other Object; Oh no assure your self that
if Amasius must not be admitted to admire
his Oretlia to steal a kiss, and Imprint his
Lips on those fair Hands, to Languish at
your Feet, and beg your Compassion, the grave
shall have my Courtship, and for ever will
I bid Adieu to all the empty pleasures on this
side the Dust.

With these and such like Courtly Expressions
as opportunity would give leave, did our En-
amor'd Pair pass away the Hours, and give each
other the assurance of a strong and lasting an-
Affection as Love it self could implant in the
minds of the most passionate; Nor was the
same so secretly caution'd, but that the Parents
of Oretlia took Notice of its Growth, which
as they saw no reason to discourage, so neither
would they give License to the continuance of
it, till such time as Amasius his Father was ac-
quainted with it, and they had obtain'd his con-
sent. To which purpose the Dutch Merchant
discourag'd Amasius, telling him, that he was on
his part ready to give Oretlia a proportionable
fortune to what his Father shou'd settle on him,
and

and was no wayes averse to his Marriage with his Daughter. Amasius with tears of Joy return'd his acknowledgements; and Entreated him by all the Endearments Imaginable, to the next Pacquet to acquaint his Father with it, and beg his leave that it might be forthwith Consummated, this he promised, and accordingly did; This Letter Amasius, Seconded with one of his own, wherein he described the Vertues and agreeable sweetnesse of Oretlia's temper; begg'ing pardon that without his leave his thoughts had been fixt upon her, which he believ'd were directed by the Hand of providence, and design'd by Heaven for the Establishment of his future happiness. The Father was well pleased with the proposals made by his Correspondent, and in a short time after return'd his consent. This was certainly welcom'd with no inconsiderable Joy by the Lovers, who had spent the last month in fear that some cross accident might obviate their expectations, or at least protract their Nuptials, which they so earnestly wished for, But having now the Consent of their Parents Concurrent with their own desires, the day of Marriage was agreed upon to be within a fortnight, and all necessary preparations taken care of, to render it as splendid as publick. The pulses of our Lovers be at nothing but desire,

the Minutes seem'd to Travel on Crutches
and the Hours with a snails pace followed after.
Ten dayes were now past and the Eleventh had
shewed his Face, when early in the Morning a
Letter came by a particular Hand to Amasius
from his Father, the Contents were in these
words.

My Dear Amasius,
If ever thou intendest to see thy Living Fa-
ther, and as thou tenderest my Blessing upon
sight of this, without any delay make all
possible hast to

Thy Loving and Dying
Father.

R. A.

Never did the young Swain with greater
Horror see the Enlightned Sky Dart out a
growing Thunderbolt amidst his harmless flock,
then did Amasius receive this killing Message
which struck his Enlivened Joy into Mortal ap-
prehensions. A Command so peremptory ad-
mitted no excuse nor can I relate with how great
a discontent he was forced to obey the Mandate,
or in the least proportion express the sad Fare-
well, he was constrain'd to take of his weeping
Oxilia. The tears they shed or the Sighs that
broke

broke prison from their Breasts, were as innumerable as the tears of Autumn, or the drops that fall the Ocean; yet obedience was indisputable, and his dolatory and unwilling departure Criminal; in short, he sigh'd and vow'd Eternal Love, promis'd his return, & almost dying on her Lips in his last salute, took leave & repaired to his Ship which waited for him. The willing winds wasted him unwillingly from the Joy of his Soul, and in a few Hours he lost sight of shore, where he had continually fixt his Eyes, and left his dearest treasure; In every blast he thought he heard Orielias lamentation, and grew angry with the Churlish winds that they would not do him the same kind Office and return his Sighs to Her. His Voyage was but too prosperous in Conveying him thence, though in some measure he was pleased therewith in that it gave him hopes he should be the less while from the Miseries of his affections, with whom he had left his heart the pledge of his resolv'd return. In a few days he arrived at London where he found his Father upon recovery from a dangerous sickness in which his Physicians had dispaired of his Life. The old Gentleman welcom'd his beloved Am'rous with the hearty affections of an indulgent Father, whilst he Congratulated his escape from the Grave with all the transports of a due

tiful Son; After a little time he recover'd a good state of healt^t, and receiv'd the Visits of his Friends and Neighbours. The General Accomplishments of Amisius his affable discourse and Courteous behaviour were observ'd by all, who Commanded him for the most compleat Gentleman they had ever seen; amongst others an Antient Gentleman, Master of a great Estate and Father of one only Daughter to inherit it; propof'd her to Amisius his Father as a convenient Match for his Son, at such time as he had procure^d his leave to depart and Consume^m his Bliss with the Beauteous Ortelia. This o'l Fox knowing that her fortune would treble what was offe^d with Ortelia, greedily devour'd the bait, and Commanded Amisius to forget his first, and apply his Address^s to this Second My^rstres, which tho' he refused with all the prayers and Gentle Arguments Love could muster on his behalf, by the recital of those many and Sacred Vowes he had pass'd, and the miseryes he must certainly meet in the Violation of that Troth whic^t Heaven it self had been witness to, yet the passionate Father, wholly devoted to his Interest, would by no means be prevail'd upon, but injyn'd him by his Paternal Authority and as he hop'd to Heyr his Favour and fortune,
to obey his Command wretchedly miserable was

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the Condition of Amasius, but complaints were
in Vain, the old Men were agreed and he must
submit or incur his Fathers utmost displeasure.
However not all their Art or Industry could
ever alienate his thoughts from his dear *Ortelia*.
She was constantly in his Eye and the Subject of
every Melancholy Soliloquy that he repeated to
the careless winds and unanswering Groves,
where he Sigh'd away his tedious Hours. In
Memory of her the tender Trees were wounded
to Carve her Name, and every kind Turf that
used to be his Couch was Nourish'd by the dew
that fell from his Eyes; The Birds forgot their
Notes, and learn't to Sympathize with him,
and Echo it self repeated nothing but *Ortelia's*
Name. Every one Compassionated the unhappy
Youth; but the Cruel Father, who seeing all
things in the Mirror of his own Sordid Interest
forc'd Amasius to Visit his design'd Wife; but
how Cold and unlike a Lover his Addresses
were, the young Lady quickly took Notice
of, and acquainted her Parents with it, which
was not long before it came to his Fathers ears,
who the more he found him Averse to his Hu-
mour, the more did he press the same, and
charged him as obstinat and Rebellious to
his Commands, which by all that was Sacred he
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with

with enjoynd a Second Visit which disconsolate
Am sis obeyed and having the opportunity
 of private discourse with the young Lady, who
 was a Person of equal discretion and Beauty, he
 resolv'd to deal generously with her, and lay his
 present Condition naked before her. To this
 end after some short discourse leading to his
 purpose, he told her he was infinitely troubled
 that he had not a heart, that he could entirely
 devote to her Service, but that the same was
 possessed by another whose Charms not long be-
 fore had made an absolute Conquest over him,
 and to whom by all the Vowes and promises that
 Lovers make, he was in the strictest sort obliged;
 So that should he go about to deceive her by
 Counterfeiting a passion that could never be
 real, he should play the Traytor with a Ladys,
 who had for her Vertues and incomparable de-
 ferts so much of his esteem, that he could never
 pardon himself so great a crime. The young Lady
 was extreamly pleased with his Ingenious Com-
 fession, and promised she would on her part ne-
 ver go about to make him guilty of the brach
 of those Vowes, he look'd upon above all others,
 to have some thing more awful and Religious in
 them and exacted the most sincere obseriance:
 But on the contrary she would endeavour what
 lay in her power to divert her Father from his
 design. Ah Madam! replied the gladded Ar-
 sis

sins, and can you be so kind, so forgetful of my faults, and give me your pardon, then may I hope once more to be happy.

You have it Sir, says the Lady, and an Esteem with it Suitable to your Merits, for surely there is none who knows your Circumstances but must Commend you; and to Evince to the World, I am one of that Number, the blame shall be mine; and if you please, in Obedience to your Fathers Commands, to pursue your Courtship, the Breach shall appear on my part.

Its Heaven ! Heaven Madam ! Replyed the overjoy'd Am^{er}itus, that must repay this favour, which all my Stock of Gratitude is too poor to Answer in the least degree. These and such like discourses were the Entertainment of the Second Meeting wherein it was resolv'd Am^{er}itus should carry on his seeming Addresses, and the refusal to be on the Ladies side, this he so lively personated, that in the eye of the World, he was look'd upon as absolutely Enamor'd of her excellencies as if the same had been real, upon which his Father receiv'd him with a double return of his respect and kindness to him. The old Gentleman having settled the whole affair

affair between themselves, agreed the time and place to finish the Espousals, under which apprehension, let us change the Scene to Holland, where during the time of *Amasius* absence, the disconsolate *Ortelia* like the Mourning Turtle on her Melancholy perch, Sigh'd out her Sorrows in the longing expectation of her Dear *Amasius* his return, but having by the miscarriage of his Letter for two Months heard nothing from him, began to think him unkind and forgetful of his Vowes; when it happened an English Gentleman Travelling into those parts, and invited to her Fathers House with other Friends one day to Dinner, amongst the variety of their discourse of England, and of their several acquaintance there, it was ask'd if he knew *Amasius* his Father, how he did, and if perfectly recover'd from his late Sicknes, which he told them he was, and that his Son, the young Gentleman, was to be suddenly Married with a Lady to whom he had been some time Engaged. This unexpected News Surpriz'd the whole Family, but especially *Ortelia*, who trembled and chang'd a Colour at it; the question was renew'd by *Ortelia's* Father, Sir, says he, I have some knowledge of the young Gentleman, and should be very glad to hear of his prosperity, and I entreat you, Sir, if you can to tell me more particularly

ticularly the Person to whom, and the Ground's
of your assurance that he is so soon to Change
his Condition. In answer to which, the Gentle-
man told him her Name, described her Person
and fortune, and withal gave her a very advan-
tageous Character, as to her Vertues, her Beau-
ty and excellent Temper, adding that before he
left England the day had been appointed; which
he supposed would happen two days following,
that he was with Amasis, and his Father when
the Wedding Clothes were bought, and other
provisions made for the Solemnity. And is,
Pursues one of Ortelia's Sisters, Amasis as accom-
plished, a Lover as he seems a Gentleman;
Doubtless Madam, sayes the stranger, he wants
nothing to Command him to the World in all
respects, and I have observ'd, (for I live near
him) his Visits to be very assiduous, his mean
and address Vigorous and Courtly; The day
I came for Holland he waited upon her in a New
Chariot Richly gilt, in which they both went
to a play together. Perfidious Wretch! sayes
Ortelia to her self: am I so soon forgotten! ---
Oh Amasis! and blush'd, and could scarce re-
strain her Eyes from expressing the Violence of
her passion, which her Friends taking Notice of,
diverted the discourse, and Dinner being ended;
She slipt from the Company to her Chamber,
where

where after she had given her passion its full rage against the false Amasius, she flung her self down upon the Bed, where she lay till her Sisters came up to comfort her. But alas ! too late, for the Torrent of her Griefs had already put a fatal period to her life, and her Soul was fled to those Mansions of Bliss wh ch she mis'd of here, so strange were their Surprize at so sudden a Disaster, that they could scarce beleive their eyes, their loud shrieks and cryes call'd up the House, and so excessive was the general Lamentation that it is b:yond the power of my expression to describe it. I will now leave this House of Mourning and return to Amasius, who all this time had liv'd upon the Rack, and was against his will oblig'd to Act a part so directly contrary to his Inclinations and the ingenuity of his Temper ; But this being at the Ladies request and known to her, it did the less concern him : On the other Hand : he young Lady had used all her endeavours wth her Father to put off the Match, alledging in her self a present indisposition of health, and unwillingness so hastily to change her Condition, nor could she d l-cover, (whatever the world might see,) those Graces in Amasius his Person, or that agreeable Humour in his conservation, that shoud tempt her to Marry him, and Hazard her future happiness

pines in the Choice of a Husband she could never intirely Love. But all her arguments were in Vain, her perverse Father would permit no disputes, but sharply reprov'd her, Saying, not her Eyes shou'd be the guide of her Choice, that shou'd depend on his pleasure; that he was very well satisfied in *Amasius*, and did expect nothing from her but a due Complianc to his Will. In this state their affairs stood till the very Night was come which preceeded the Morning of their Nuptialls, on which as they were d. scouring together, *Amasius* on his knees beg'd her pardon that he must unwillingly take some other course to avoid that, which to any other man in the World would be the greatest Blessing his Soul could wish to enjoy on this side Heaven; But what the same shou'd be he was not yet determined, but impossible it was, that he could be ever forc't to betray his vows to *Ortelia*. The good Lady pityed his Condition, and beg'd him by no desperate Act to urge his Fate, telling him she would be ready to share his misfortunes, & equally suffer with him. The Evening grew on apace and *Amasius* with a Thousand thanks to the Generous Lady took leave, no wayes resolv'd what to do, his wandring thoughts fell upon several Stratagems to defer the Wedding, but none of them please'd

pleased him, the Obſtinacy of his Father was not to be removed by all his prayers and Intreaties. At laſt he resign'd himſelf to his Pillow, and recommended the ſucceſs of this great affair to the care and Conduct of his better *Genius*; however this point he fixt, that rather than break his Vowes he would venture the displeaſure of his Father, and if no Mediation would reconcile him, he refolved for *Holland* to live and dye with his Dear *Ortelia*. Often did he endeavour to Compoſe himſelf to reſt, but the Troubles of his mind kept his Eyes open, nor had he ſlept a wink when the clock ſtruck two, the Moon ſhone full upon the Window, and his Melancholy fancy was ſhaping the ſeveral Shadows into various representations and figures, when he thought he heard his door open, and turning his Eye he ſaw the Appearance of a Woman with a Mournful and pale look, enter his Chambers, ſtarled at the *Phantasm* as he at firſt ſuppoſed it to be, after a little time he recover'd himſelf & obſerving the figure more nearly, he thought he beheld the very Person of *Ortelia*, Clad all in white with her Hair diſtrewell'd, and at the End of every Lock a drop of Blood, which hung round her Shoulders like a Chain of Rubyes; On her head ſhe ſeem'd to have a Crown of Gold ſet round with diamonds, Emeralds,

Emeralds, Saphires, and other precious Stones
of different Colours whose Dazzling rayes his
weaker eyes could no more beholde then the
Sun in his Meridian Glory, this surprizing Vi-
sion struck a sacred horror through every part,
tho' the strangeness of the Apparition did not
so much affright as the Majestick Port and radi-
ant Graces pleas'd his admiring fancy: It mo-
ved in a gentle pace towards the Bed, and draw-
ing the Curtains in a pleasing but hollow voice,
spoke to him.

*Fear not, Amasius, for I am now too late
satisfied of thy Fidelity to the Mistaken
Ortelia, nor do I come from the Shades of
Death, to reproach thy unconstant Love,
it hath been the Misfortune of my Credulity,
not thy Disloyalty, too late I knew it, to Re-
medy the dissolution I suffer'd; but the pow-
ers amongst whom I am, have since reveal'd
the truth and tho' I can never be thine.*

Not mine, replied the trembling Amasius,
not mine, *Ortelia*? Think not those Shades
shall ever hide thee, no *Ortelia*; if really thou
art my *Ortelia*, surely thou couldst not think
so hardly of me, but even amidst those dark
Shadess below *Amasius* would seek thee out;
and

and since our Destinyes have forbidd us to abide
on Earth, is there no Society beneath it? thither I will follow thee, and Trace every step
of thine till I have wearied thy Fleeting Mans
and forc'd thee to repose, where I will rest in
thy Bosom and enjoy the happiness of being
ever with thee,

*Alas Amasius! Reply'd the Mournfull
Shade, little art thou learn'd in what we
know, nor dare I tell thee what we are sub-
ject to, who travel in that great Abyss. Live
therefore, Amasius, 'tis Heaven enjoyns it,
Heaven (to which in a short time my an-
dring spirit must take its everlasting flight)
bids thee not shake the Sands of life which
in a short time will of themselves run out,
much less break the precious Christall that
contains them; long it will not be e're we
shall meet again and be for ever joyn'd by
Tyes more Sacred then Flesh and Blood can
admit of here. Oh Amasius, we shall be in-
initely happy, but we must wait the leisure
of Heaven to make us so.*

*May that time quickly come, cryes the pas-
sionate Amasius, move faster, O ye Sluggish
Hours*

Hours and huddle into days, ye days into years
to accomplish that Happy period.

*'Twill not be long first, said Ortelia, but
in the meantime observe my Request, and
do no Violence to your self, nor ever
consent to Marry the Person design'd
nor any other, and if you can possibly pre-
vent it, never reveal one Syllable of this
discourse, nor let the World know I have
now appear'd to you, for if you do, my rest-
less Ghost will ever haunt you.*

I dare promise any thing thy Blessed Shade
desires me, Reply'd *Anasius*, but to live is a pu-
nishment too intolerable for frail Mortality to
bear, I'll cast off my hated Life w th all the
Gild'd vanities that attend it, to be Blest a-
mongst the Number of the dead, with the Sight
of my *Ortelia*.

*We must not, said She, Carve out our
own desires, if we should, our unskilful
Hand would oft mistake the Poison for the
Antidote, but as thou Tendereſt the Prayers
and Entreatyes of dead Ortelia, patiently
attend thy Fate.*

At which word the Shrill Harbinger of the

D

Morn.

Morn gave Notice of the approach of day, and Summon'd all wandering Ghosts to their dark abode ; when *Ortelia* contracting her scatter'd Rayes into one Glorious Beam of Light, cryed Farewell ! Farewell ! My Dear *Amasius*, and vanish'd in a Minute. *Amasius*, seeing that *Ortelia* was now gone beyond recall, fell into these passionate Complaints, Oh kind Death, if ever thou had'st pity for the Miserable, suffer thy self this once to be entreated, discharge me from this Clog of earth which still sinks my aspiring Soul ; See here a Resistless breast which begs but one single Shaft, and hast thou none at leasure ? Insulting Tyrant to keep the wretched in Chains, and like the Conquer'd *B-jazet* make me the Gazing Stock of Fools, whilst I am imprison'd in this Cage of Fish, but Oh ! that like him, I could dash out life, against those Bars that hold me ! Oh sad parting, Oh Dear *Ortelia* ! and art thou gone so soon from me, who perhaps may never see thee more ? Come death and ease me, Oh cruel fate obey ! No ! no ! I am condemn'd to Linger out a miserable life in pains, more Exquisite then the sharpest Martyrdoms, but thou dear Soul hast told me it shall not be long. Oh remember but thy last promise, and I will ask no more to compleat me happy ; with these and other dolorous Expression did the

Unhappy

Unhappy *Amaſius* Vent his Sorrows, whilst ex-
cess of passion had thrown him into a Violent
Feaver. In the Morning early, his Friends came
Crowding to his Chamber to bid good Morrow,
to the Bridegroom, and finding him in Bed yet,
one of them began to Rally his Sluggishness,
who on a Wedding-day when all the prepara-
tions for the Nuptials waited for him, and his
Friends were Met to welcom the Happy Hour,
was the greatest Loyterer himself: To whom
Amaſius only answer'd with a deep Sigh, which
wa followed by Showers of Tears, the most pa-
thetick Oratory of a troubled Mind: what
weeping, *Amaſius*? sayes another, sye for shame,
let the old and impotent who have worn out
Youth, and are now curst with the miseries of
Age bewail the losſ of thofe pleasures they once
did Revel in; but thou art now in full possession
of thofe riper Joys, and thy happier fortune speaks
nothing but Mirth and Jollity. Pray forbear Sir,
your unwelcom Jests and spare your Railery, at
this time said *Amaſius*, the Grave mu be my Mar-
riage Bed, and Oh that I were now to dres my
ſelf, and be there undrest at Night, with what
charfulness ſhould you then ſee me c infirmate
thoſe wiſd for Espouſals. But G ntl m n, as
you are my Friends let me beg of you to give
me no farther disturbance, my thoughts are

Otherways disposed of then you imagine, and the greatest kindness you can do me is to leave me to my own Meditations. In so disconsolate a tone did *Amasis* deliver himself, that he strangely surpriz'd the hearers with pity for his Condition, the reason of which they could not possibly imagine. His Father was immediately acquainted with it, who coming to his Bed-side found him extreamly ill, and fitter for the Advice of the Physicians then the Entertainment of his Friends, or the intended Solemnyt. The Doctors were sent for to consult of his present Distemper, who all agreed he was in a High Feaver, but that the cause thereof was not External, but from some extraordinary grief which opprest his Spirits, and was not to be remov'd by all their Learned prescriptions, nor could they advise a more proper Cure then what they endeavou'red to prevent his Death. For some weeks in this miserable Condition, did he linger out the tedious Hours, to the great trouble and discomfort of his Relations, who daily Visited him, and as often prest to know the cause of his present affliction, which he the more carefully strove to hide, nor could they Guess at any probab'e cause, but as they observ'd his deep Sighs, and then of a sudden his passionate and abrupt expressions of O dear O retia, happy O retia, but

lost, but gone for ever O miserable wretch, miserable *Amaſius*, I come, I come, my joy, my Dear Saint, I com, from whence they all concluded ne-
thing but the Hand of Heaven could work a Cure
on his Distemper'd mind, whilst his Body only
Smpathiz'd with the anguish of his Soul; in the
mean time, his Father heard from his Dutch cor-
respondent, how fatal his unkindness had been
to his Family, who now began to see his own
Error, and blame himself as the only cause of
those Misfortunes in which they had both so
great a Share; and that by crossing the Esta-
blish'd Loves of *Amaſius* and *Ortelia* (which re-
ceiv'd their Life and vigour from his encourage-
ment) he had occasion'd the death of Beautifull
Ortelia, and reduc'd his Son into those miseries
and discontents from which he had but small
hopes to recover him. However after six weeks
Languishing under his illness, he began to grow
into a better State of health, but his Melancholy
increas'd upon him; Though his Father endea-
vour'd by all imaginable diversions to drive it
from his wounded mind, and supposing he yet
knew nothing of *Otelia's* Death, resolv'd to
Conceal it from him, till he had in some mea-
sure Estrang'd his Affections from her, which
he hoped ia tine to Effect. But after two
Months were pass'd, and *Amaſius* was rather

Worse then better, he began to think that if his Son, knew of *Ortelia's* death; and the impossibility of ever enjoying her, it might by degrees quiet his troubled mind, and put him upon some thoughts of perfecting the Match he had design'd him with much advantage. Accordingly one Evening he took an opportunity to disclose *Ortelia's* Death to him omitting those Circumstances that more particularly concern'd her love to him, which would rather aggravate then allay his passion,

Alas Sir! said Amasius, I have long since known more of that affair then you are please'd to Communicate to me now; I know that *Ortelia* is dead, and that Amasius can never be happy till he is so too; But for this I must blame the weakness of my Love, that what a Woman could do for me, I cannot for her, nor dare not, Since I am forbid all violent Remedies, which adds to my affliction, and prevents that Cure, which otherwise I would soon accomplish.

His Father was strangely Surpriz'd to see himself prevented in his discovery, and commanded Amasius to tell him how he came by his Intelligence, supposing that contrary to his order

der some of his Friends had acquainted him with it.

Amasius humbly beg'd his Pardon, and assur'd him, it was not from his Relations or any Person else he had Entrusted with the Secret, that he came by the knowledge of it; and earnestly pray'd him not to press that question any farther, which if in Obedience to his Commands he should be oblig'd to Answer, would yet add more to that weight of sorrow he so miserably labour'd under.

This made the old Gentleman his Father the more Inquisitive, who conjur'd him by that respect and duty he ow'd him as his Father, to give him a plain and Satisfactory account, which without any excuse he immediately expected from him.

Well sir, said Amasius, since you will extort a Secret from me, which of all things can only make me more Unhappy, take it, and Judge if my Duty to you is not above all regard to myself --- Here Amasius acquainted his Father how he had seen Oretelia, and the discourse he had with her, the Night before his intended Nuptials, adding

*ding withal, that in declaring what he had
forc'd him to ; he should be the most mis-
erable of Men, as the Sequel of his Unhappy
Life approv'd him to be.*

Some time after his Father by the Advice of His Friends, remov'd Amasius into the Country, and having several Relations and acquaintance near York, that place was fixt upon, hoping that Change of Air and variety of Company might be of advantage to his Health, and a diversion to his Melancholy. But Alas ! He never Enjoy'd a Minute free from the thoughts of his fair deceat'd *Ortelia*, the only Intervals of pleasure he had, were when the kind Ghost of *Ortelia* came to visit him, which she was often wont to do, or at least his deluded Fancy Imagined so, from that time(when by the Severity of his Father he was forc't to discover that he had both seen and discoursed with her the Night before the intended Marriage.) At several times would he start upon a sudden from his Company, saying, do you not hear *Ortelia's* voice ? I come, I come, my Dear, Ah there she is, pray do but observe how kindly the poor *Ortelia* looks on her *Amasius*, see how Melancholy and pale she is, how beautifully sorrowful the Glances at me, Oh my Dear I come, but when shall I come, never

to part from thee more ? Oh that this was that blessed Hour that would make me for ever happy with thee ! And then retireing into the next Room, would talk with the same passionate Expressions of Love and tenderness to her, as if he did really Conversc with her in the visible form of Flesh and Blood. Thus did he pass away about half a year, when one Night after he had been walking and discoursing with her for at least two Hours (tho' at all these several times she was never seen by any Person but himself, sometimes indeed they could distinguish two several Voices) when returning to his Friends more pleasant and Merry then ever he had been before, I thank Heaven, sayes he, my sorrows have now found a period; I have but few nights more to repose on Earth, and then shall I live with my *Ortelia*, and enjoy Eternal Rest of Body and Tranquillity of mind. That Night he Slept heartily and next Morning arose early in a most Serene and Compos'd Temper, at which his Friends were extreamly pleased, and tho' they were much Surpriz'd at the discourse of his approaching Death, yet seeing him continue so well for three dayes, they began to forget their fears, and please themselves with the vain hopes of his perfect recovery. The next day being Thursday, and Bowling-day, it was agreed they

should take their Horses and Ride to the Green,
and there Dine with other Gentlemen who usu-
ally Met there once a Week: *Amasius* chear-
fully consented to it, which was the more taken
Notice of, it being the first time they could ever
prevail with him to go into a publick Company,
or divert himself with any Sociable Recreation.
After Dinner they Bowl'd again, when a dispute
arising about a Cast, *Amasius* took his friends
part, at which his Adversary was so Incensed
(being a Cholerick Person) that he struck him
with his fist, but the Gentlemen who were pre-
sent interposing they prevented any farther
Mischieif. *Amasius*, who disdain'd to receive so
publick an Injury with the patience of a coward,
withdrew into the Garden, and privately sent a
note to the Gentleman to let him know, he there
expected with his Sword in his Hand Satisfac-
tion for the Affront he had put upon him. His ad-
versary came, and after some few pases ran
Amasius through the heart, of which he imme-
diately dyed, and went with Jey to meet his
Dear *Ortelia* in the Shades below, to the great
Grief of his Father and all his friends, who had
known his Vertuous and Honourable Accom-
plishments.

Aurelio

Aurelia having thus Finish'd her Tragi-call Relation, Melintus paid her his more particular acknowledgements, nor did the Rest of the Company forget their Respects, tho' all thought it an unreasonable Entertainment for a Gentleman, whose present Distemper had too much affinity to Honorius his Melancholy passion, and were not a little apprehensive of the ill Effects it might produce. However to prevent his being too serious and considerate upon it, Lysander, who was next in the Rota, took his turn and thus address'd to the Company.

NOVEL the Third,

By LYSANDER]

IT was the unhappiness of Cratander, whose Generosity very often out-stript his prudence, and his Natural Bounty the Narrow Confines
of

of his Estate, to be at last reduc'd to great ne²
cessity, his Friends Commiserating his Condition advised how they might best assist his present distress, and prevent his own and the dishonour of his family. They resolv'd at last upon a friendly Contribution to raise some Moneys, and present him with a good Gelding, and propos'd to him the going up to *London*, where he might put himself into some employ, and particularly that of the Kings Guards, which would afford him a Gentle and competent Support.

Crasander was easily persuaded to embrace the Council of his friends, and not long after left the North his Native Countrey, and took his Journey to *London*. After he had spent some Months there in vain, either through his own ill Conduct, the Modesty of his Temper which could not sue for favours with that Confidence which others succeed by, or that his Stars had design'd him for some greater end, having almost spent the little Stock he had, he saw he should be soon forc't to Sell his Horse to buy Hay, and to Live longer there at so great Expence, woul'd most certainly involve him in Debt and Misery. In the midst of these distract-ed thoughts he resolv'd to quit the Town, and make a Visit to an old Acquaintance who was Master of a plentifull Estate, and lived in the West

West of Eng'nd, and accordingly did so. The next Morning he set out early, and Travell'd almost fifty Miles, when Night coming upon him hastily he lost his way upon a great Common, and not knowing the Coast of the Countrey wandred up and down, till at last he spy'd a Candle at a Shepherds Cott about half a Mile, distance, which he steer'd up to. Hallowing to know who liv'd there, the Shepherd came out, of whom he Enquired the way to the Town he intended to Lodge at that Night, the Shepherd told him he was five Miles off, and the way difficult to find, if he was a stranger in the Countrey, Cratander told him he was, and had already lost his way and tired his Horse, and if he would be so kind to give him Accommodation for that night, he would gratifie him to his Content.

The shepherd told him his was a House but of one Room, tho' plentifully Furnish'd with Inhabitants, that besides his Wife and himself he had Six Children, and but one Bed, and a Matress, and not so much as a Hovell to put his Horse in.

Cratander then enquired if there was no neighbouring Village could give him a Reception for one night, the Shepherd told him a ^{mile}

mile off there was one, and if he pleas'd he would be his Guide, which *Crasander* accepted of when they were Arrived at it, they found but one Ale-house in the Town, and that afforded no better Accommodation then the Shepherds Hutt; *Crasander* in this distres, ask'd if there was no Gentleman or Farmer in the Town, who would be so kind to Entertain him for a Night, the Shepherd told him it was a very poor Village, but there was a Mannor Houle in it, at which a Gentlewoman now liv'd who was Daughter to the Lord of the Mannor, who died six Months ago, that she probably might be so kind to him as a stranger, when others for the same reason would distrust and refuse him for Charitable a favour. *Crasander*, with the directions of the Shepherd, went up to the Hall, the Shepherd knock'd at the gate, and told the servant a Gentleman desir'd to speak with her Mistress, who immediately sent to Invite him in, *Crasander* excus'd himself, that it would be too great a boldness in him who was a stranger to the Lady, but he would wait as a beggar at her Gate to intreat a Boon from her Hands. The Maid carried back this answer, which surpriz'd the Young Lady, especially when her Servant told her he was a Gentleman on Horseback well accoutred, and Robin who was her Shepherd was with him, the Lady came present-

ly to the Gate to whom Cratander with all Modesty and respect address'd himself.

I am, Madam, tho' a Stranger to you, forc't to presume upon your Favour, that you will please to give leave to a Traveller who has lost his way to beg a Lodging for himself and Horse, the same Stable shall Entertain us both, nor should anything but down-right necessity oblige me to this Confident Petition.

The Lady who was of a most affable and sweet Temper told him readily he was most heartily Welcom, and she only wish'd her present Hospitality could answer the Merits of her Guest; upon this invitation Cratander alighted, whom the Lady Conducted into the House and order'd his Horse to the Stable. He was Entertain'd in the principal Room with a plentiful Supper, which being ended, Cratander in the most obliging Expressions paid his thanks to the Generous Lady, and taking up his Sword and Pistol which lay upon the Table, now Madam if you please, I will walk into the Stable and repose my self by my Horse, for this day's Journey has made me both weary and Sleepy; The Lady at these words seem'd extreamly Surpriz'd, and with a graceful sharpness told him, She was very sorry that the Cordial Welcom

She

She better design'd him, then was ab'e to express
upon so sudden an Occasion should be so far
mistaken; That she hop'd her House, how meanly
soever Furnish'd, might afford him a better
Lodging then her Stable, which she desir'd he
would believe by accepting of it. *Cratander*
was much out of Countenance at this reprimand,
but recovering himself, modestly reply'd,
Dear Madam, you have already so infinitely
oblig'd me that I had not Confidence enough to
Trespass farther upon so Generous a Temper,
especially when at the same time I consider my
self an absolute stranger to you, which perhaps
may create some fears and Jealousyes in your
Family, though your Noble Breast which knows
no Guilt in ic self, can Harbor no suspition of
others. The Lady Blusht and told him, She saw
too much Honour in his Person and demeanour
to Judge so unworthily of him, and desir'd he
would please to take his Chair and pass away
half an Hour, till his Chamber was prepar'd for
him. *Cratander* had observ'd that both before
and at Supper the Maid that waited had her eye
constantly fixt upon him, and with a look that
spoke Horror and Conternation, as if she sus-
pected him for a Person who had some Villain-
ous design brooding in his heart, which his
being so well Arm'd gave occasion for, Nor
Was

was he mistaken for she had several times prest her Mistress that the stranger might lye in the Stable with his Horse as he himself requested, That it happen'd out very oddly that this stranger should come this very Night upon those pretensions when no such accident ever was before, a Night when all the Men-Servants, had leave to be abroad at a Countrey Wake and none but Women and a poor Boy who belong'd to the Stables left at home, her Mistress heard her reasons and inclin'd to her Opinion, but considering what a reflection it would be upon her, if this stranger was really that worthy Gentleman he appear'd to be, she resolv'd to run all risques rather then be guilty of so base and degenerous an Action. The Gentleman and Lady had pass'd away the time in variety of discourse, by which she was now fixt in a good Opinion of him, and had fully banish'd those fears and apprehensions her Maid had whisper'd in her Ear, when the Servant came down and told her the Chamber was ready, if the Gentleman pleas'd to go to Bed, upon which her Mistress order'd her to take the Candle and wait upon him to his Lodging. The Lady attended him to his Chamber, and smilingly told him, Sir, pray Command whatever you want, and my house affords, I wish you good Rest and hope

Hope your Lodging will be as pleasant here as
in the Stable --- Cratander would have reply'd,
but the Lady was gone. The Maid having left
the Gentleman to his rest, went to her Mistress's
Chamber, where she began a fresh talk of course
her form'r Suspicions, but the Lady with a
frown bid her be silent and make haste to Bed;
those Jealousyes were idle fancies only, and
should never discompose her rest whatever
should be the issue of them. The Maid went
to her Chamber, put out the Candle and lay'd
herself upon the Bed, wishing for the Morning,
which would dispell those Melancholy thoughts
that now opprest her mind. Her present fears
banish'd all Sleep from her Eyes, and the Clock
had now struck One, when she heard a Noise in
the Court-yard, starting up she ran to the window,
where she saw four Men at the door, who
first Tryed the Latch to see if it was open, and
finding it fast Bolted and Lockt, they endeav-
our'd by main strength to force their Entrance,
the Maid frighted out of her wits, ran to her
Mistress's Chamber, where with her passionate
Out cryes, She awaken'd her, and told her,

*There were four Robbers in the yard
breaking into the House, who would certain-
ly Murder them all, and the Person she had
Entertain'd*

Entertain'd was no doubt of their Gang:

The Lady Alarm'd at this unexpected News, half distract'd flew to Cratander's Chamber, who was fast asleep and loudly Snoring, but she soon awakened him with her loud complaints, and upon her Knees with all the passion, and moving Rhetorick her fears could inspire her with.

Beg'd her Life and Honour of him, and the preservation of her Family, and She would immediately deliver him all her Money, Plate, Jewels, or whatever else he thought worth his acceptance; And in the same Breath repeated, but pray sir spare my Life, Spare my Honour, and I shall think my self indebted to you for whatever I part with besides.

Cratander, whose thoughts at the lowest Ebb of fortune could never Entertain a base design, was no less Surpriz'd then the Lady, and told her.

Madam, I understand not your meaning, but if you please to be plain in your Expressions, I will defend both your Life and Honour with the utmost hazard of my own. Oh Sir, sayes the Lady, there are Theives
breaking

breaking into my House, and pardon me if I mistake you for one of their Confederates. I'll convince you presently, reply'd Cratander, and leaping out of Bed Slipt on his Clothes, and with his Sword and Pistols, by the Maids direction, made to that part of the House they first attempted, Cratander had the fortune to have just got to the door, when they forc't it open, and discharging one of his Pistols amongst them, he saw a Person drop, upon which they gave back; but he with his sword in Hand, advanced two or three Steps, and by the opposition he met with, from one of them receiv'd a Slight Wound upon his Breast, which he reveng'd by another upon his Auge faries right Arm, which so disabled him that he gave back, and Cratander retreated to the door for fear their odds might oppress him, whose safety depended only on his single Courage. The Thieves seem'd to go off, and left one of their Companions bleeding upon the Ground, which Cratander (by his Groans) suppos'd to be dying, but not knowing what reserve

reserve of strength they might have, he made fast the door and went up to his Chamber, where he had left the Lady half dead with fear.

Madam, says he, was it not for what your Ladyship has suffer'd in the affright I am heartily glad of this opportunity, which has I hope in some measure made me Serviceable to your Ladyship, and given a Testimony of that Honour and Justice which before as a stranger might be question'd in me. The Lady with tears in her Eyes, which stood ready to fall'y out either with Joy or sorrow, return'd her thanks in the most grateful Sense her words could express, call'd him the Preserver of her Life, Honour and Fortune, who certainly was sent from Heaven, like a *Guardian Angel*, to defend her from the rapine and Violence of Theives and Murderers. After some care taken of his wound, which was not deep, they resolv'd not to go to Bed for fear of a Second Attaque, but in Cratanders Chamber spent the remainder of the Nighr, wishing for the Morning light, that they might safely discover the Person who was left behind dead upon the Spot; As soon as the day appear'd, Cratander, the Lady, and the rest of the Family open'd the door, and in the yard found

a great quantity of blood spilt upon the Ground, but the Body was convey'd away, which they could trace no farther then the out-ward Gate, which was left open, and the lock broke off; *Cratander* staid two days till his wound was clos'd, and the Lady recover'd from that consternation she was under, when ready on the third day to take his leave against all those arguments of kindness and respect the Lady could press upon him, a Servant came over to invite her to the Funeral of her Uncle, a Gentleman of Competent Estate who liv'd ten miles off. The Lady was very much surpriz'd to hear of her Uncle's so sudden death, whom she had not known to be ill, and particularly enquir'd the cause, to whom the Servant could give no other Answer, but that going to Bed something indispos'd, he was found dead in the Morning, the Lady was now furnish'd with fresh occasion of Grief, which she made use of as a powerful reason to perswade *Cratander* to stay one day longer, and particularly desir'd him to bear her Company to that mournfull Solemnity. *Cratander* told her he was extreamly sorry for her loss of so near a Relation -- Alas Sir, says she, it is not that alone, I have a second loss in a good Friend, to whose Care and Advice my dying Father recommended me, and I have been sufficiently sensible

sensible of his kindness in the management of those worldly affairs Women are generally born strangers to. The next day being that of his Funeral, *Crauder* promis'd to wait upon her, and in the Interim endeavor'd to cheer up her drooping Spirits with a Suitable Conversation to her Solemn grief. Being arrived at the House the Lady was earnest to know what sudden Distemper was the cause of her Uncle's death, her Aunt told her she suppos'd an Apoplexy, but desiring to see the Corps, she answer'd that being a Corpulent Fat Man the Coffin was nail'd up early in the Morning for fear the Body, which began already to Corrupt, should be offensive to the Company. The Lady was very well Satisfied with the answer, and led by *Crauder*, attended the Corps to the Grave. At their return home discoursing of the Funeral, *Crauder* ask'd who that Gentleman was in the Brown Periwig that assisted at the Interment, The Lady told him, he was a Gentleman of intimate acquaintance with her Uncle, who had formerly a fair Estate, but his too lavish Hand had now forc'd him to receive his Support from the kindness of his more familiar and Charitable Friends. Madam, says *Crauder*, did you not observe a black Ribbon tyed about the wrist of his Right Hand; yes Sir, says she, I did so, he is

a Gentleman who drinks high and is often in Broyls, I wish Madam, says *Crasander*, he was guilty of no other fault, tho' I cannot commend a quarrelsom Temper in my best Friends; but proceeds he, would you please to Seal my pardon before-hand, I would make one step farther, which I shall do with all respect to the Memory or reputation of any Gentleman alive or dead. Sir, says she, I am altogether in the dark, and cannot guess at your meaning, but assure your self it is not in your power to disoblige me: Madam, says *Crasander*, when twas my good fortune the other Night to engage the Thieves who had broke into your House, I after the fall of one of them, I prest forward with my Sword & receiv'd the hurt upon my Breast from another, which by that glimmering light of the Moon we then had bore the perfect Shape and Likeness of this Gentleman, who at the same time receiv'd a hurt on his right Hand, which this Person seems to have; Sir, (says the Lady, a little warmly) pray what do you infer, Madam, says he, I so suspect this Gentleman to have been in the Company, and I should be very glad to be satisfied in it. Sir, says she you seem to hint something more then I am willing to believe you do. Madam, reply'd *Crasander*, I shall make no reserves in your Ladyship's Company, but I heartily wish this Hand did

Did not Contribute more to your Uncle's death
than I ever design'd it should.

*sir, says she, 'tis impossible I dare ac-
quit you, and do at this minute, and pray
let us discourse no farther on so unpleasant
a subject.*

Madam, says he, I will Trespass but in one word more, my Suspition commenc'd when I first saw that Gentleman at the House, before I ever knew he had any hurt on his Hand, for I observ'd I could never fix my Eye upon him but either through shame or Guilt he avoided the Test of my looks, and either chang'd Countenance, or Show'd some inward emotion of Spirit, which they who are better Read in the lines of Nature, and more Critically observe her Rules, would Contrue in the same Sense that I do.

*Sir, says the Lady, I am no wayes
averse to your Satisfaction in that point,
but I would at the same time have a due
regard to my Name and Family.*

Madam, reply'd Cratander, I will proceed by such wary Methods as you your self shall approve of; I will go to some Chirurgeon thereabouts, and complain the wound I receiv'd on my Breast festers within, and advise with him

for the Cure, and so from one to another; and if this Gentleman's wound appears to be so, and no strain, in all probability he applyed himself to some Neighbouring Chirurgion, and by him may receive some leading Circumstances to confirm or abate my Suspition.

Sir, says the Lady, upon the Terms I before mentioned, you may use your pleasure. Cratander accordingly the next day took his Horse, and at a publick Inn near the Town where the Uncle liv'd, desir'd to know if there was ever a Chirurgion in that part of the Country, whom he might safely intrust. The Land-lord directed him to one at the next Town, to whom Cratander Show'd his wound, which was not perfectly Cured, and in discourse, was asking if he had much practice in the Country for green Wounds, the Chirurgion told him every tittle, and that by accident the other day, a Gentleman who had been engag'd in a quarrel, receiv'd a Cut on his Right Hand, whom he now had under Cure, which had it not slanted a little had certainly Cut all his Muscles in two and for ever disabled him. The Person & Circumstance of time he more particularly urg'd, but at that distance, as if rather for discourse sake then Enquiry, and found them all Correspond with his first Suspition. At Night he acquainted the

Lady

Lady with the particulars, and prevail'd with her, that he might get a Justice of Peaces Warrant to apprehend him, and oblige him upon his Examination to give a satisfactory account where and when he receiv'd that wound. This was done and the Gentleman taken into Custody, who giving only Evasive Answers, was told if he would not be more positive and direct, they should be forc'd to charge him more Criminally, which an ingenious Confession might prevent or in some measure attone. The Gentleman was in great confusion what to say, but at last fully Confest the whole matter, that he with two more whom he Named, were won by the Uncle upon the promise of a Considerable reward to assist him in this Enterprize, that they pitch'd upon that Night rather then any other, because the Men-Servants would be abroad, and the House defenceless, that they had resolv'd to Murther the Young Lady and all the Family, for fear they should hereafter tell any Tales, that the Uncle was Shot at the door where he receiv'd his hurt by *Cratander*, and afterwards they came back and brought off his Body for fear of a discovery. Upon this the Gentleman was committed to *Winchester Gaol*; the other Two having some Notice of it fled. The Body of the Uncle was taken up, and found to be Shot in-

to the Heart with a Pistol Bullet which was there found, the Motive to so bloody and barbarous a design, (besides the instigation of the Devil and his own Covetousness) was generally suppos'd to be the Estate of the Young Lady which descended to him, who was her Father's Younger Brother, and she the only Child he left behind. The Young Lady considering how miraculously she had been preserv'd, and that next to Heaven she ow'd her Life to the Courage and Gallantry of Cratander, Franckly told him.

Sir, I never yet Enquired whether you was Married or no, nor was it a question ever in my Thoughts before, if you are not and will accept of my Person with the Fortune that attends it, I hope to be Happy in your Embraces.

Cratander, who little Expected that Fortune who had been always a niggard to him, should now pour down her Blessings with so lavish a Hand, in a Rapture of Bliss, cry'd out, O happy Cratander, for ever happy, Dear Madam I am yours for ever, and let the declining Sun tell the other part of the Globe how happy his Fellow Traveller is made to day ; which she readily consented to, and they were immediately Married. within a Month after the Aunt dy-

ed for grief, and that Estate fell to Cratander
in Right of his wife who was next Heyr at Law;
Thus Lives he Master of a fair Estate which his
courage and generosity most worthily deserves.

*Lysander ended his Story with the ap-
plause of the whole Company, and Melintus
himself smiled at the Close, and said the
Lady could do no less then Crown her Cham-
pion with the full Enjoyment of her Estate
and Person.*

Florimel whose turn it was to lead, de-
sir'd to be Excus'd, that she had never a
Story fit for such sober Company, but Me-
lintus told her he would admit no Excuse,
she was not so Airy, but she had some more
serious Intervals, and he hop'd this was one
of them. Well Sir says Florimel, I letake
my Course and you must take your Chance!

NOVEL the Fourth, By FLORIMEL.

Charilus, (for under that Title I intend to
disguise his proper English Name, out of
E 3 respect

respect to his Person and quality) was the Eldest Son of a Worthy Gentleman in Oxfordshire, and Heir to a fair Estate. His Father took particular care in his Education, to furnish him with all the Accomplishments Suitable to his parts and Character, for Nature had been prodigal to him in all the gifts of mind, which she in chal'd in a Body of Elegant Composure and perfect Symmetry. After he was arriv'd to more Natural years, his Father brought him up to London, and enter'd him into the Society of Grayes-Inn, where he not so much design'd him for a profound Lawyer, as to be Capable to serve his Country in that Station and Quality he was born in. For the first two years he was observ'd by all, for a Sedulous Student, and knew no other pleasures or diversions of the Town, than those of the play-House or Dancing-School, both which he rarely frequented, and then rather out of Complaisance to his Friends than Inclination in himself. It fortun'd one day he was Invited abroad by some of his acquaintance to an Entertainment of the Spring-Gardens, where they were Engag'd to Meet some Ladies, to whom the last Night they had lost a Collation at a Game at Cards. *Charlus* who knew nothing of the design, was very ready to accept the Treat, and promis'd his Company, The Gentlemen

Gentlemen and Ladies met accordingly, the Entertainment was Noble and Costly, the Gentlemen Generous and Frank, and the Ladies fair and Obliging. *Charlus* whose heart was yet a stranger to Love, began of a sudden to feel its warmer powers, and himself discompos'd that he resolv'd all happiness into that of Love, and Condemned the ignorance of his past Life, who had only Studyed Men and Books to know the worst half of Mankind, and neglected the fairer Sex, the Beauty and Glory of the whole Creation. Having thus but dipt his Foot in the water he found it so refreshing he resolv'd to wade farther and plunge himself into that Abyss of pleasures his Thirsty Soul so eagerly Coveted. These Ladies brought him into the Acquaintance of others, which they inlarg'd to their own Friends, till in a short time the day was not long enough for him to pay his Visits (which he punctually observ'd) to each expecting Mistress. About this time his Father dyed and left him a plentifull Estate with a considerable Sum of ready Money, which he improv'd to the better Conduct and more easy Management of his Amorous Intrigues, Numerous were the Female Clients of this young Lawyer, and the rather because he gave, but receiv'd no Fees, except those in Tail, besides the great advantage

tage he had of other Gentlemen in his comely personage and courteous behaviour, that he wounded more hearts in a week then he could Cure in a Month with his best performances. It Chanced one Evening being at a Ball in *Leicester-Fields* he saw the Beauteous *Bellinda*, whose powerful Charms would have Conquer'd a more stubborn heart then *Charilus* wore, which by its frequent wounds was now grown soft and tender, and easily received the lightest Impression. *Bellinda* was now the only game *Charilus* pursu'd, which he did so Vigorously, that he lost no opportunity he could improve, to render himself respected by her; He danced with her, and afterwards obtain'd the favour to wait upon her home in his own Coach, which he look'd upon as a promising earnest of a more ample reward in future. But after several Visits made with all passion and diligence as the Devil would have it, *Bellinda* prov'd of a different mould from other Ladies of her Sex, and Virtue had been Regent at her Nativity, above Beauty or pleasure. *Charilus* who had never met a repulse like this in the whole Career of his hot desires; Intreated, Treated, presented, which the Lady still accepted upon honourable terms. When he found these Bait's would not take, he offer'd Marriage as the last and most prevailing argument.

Bellinda

Bellinda told him, she was under no ~~Power~~
to a single Life, but could dispose of her
Person and Fortune as best pleas'd her self.

Charilus told her that was the only hap-
piness he aim'd at, and would compleat im-
mediately, but that he was under a Sacred
Obligation not to Marry for some time which
was now Expired to six Months, that he
did believe a contract in the Eye of Heaven,
was as Obliging as the publick Solemniza-
tion of the Wedding, which was only re-
quir'd by Law for the more known and cer-
tain descent of Estates, that if she pleas'd
to consent to a Contract now, he would most
assuredly Consummate the Marriage Six
Months after.

With these and other arguments and the
most Solemn protestations his quick Invention,
could furnish his Expressions with, he won the
credulous Bellinda, who without any tedious
or formal Ceremony of contract, took his word
Charilus immediatly order'd private Lodgings
for himself and Bellinda, where they liv'd with
the highest content and Satisfaction, the six
Months being expir'd, Bellinda remembred him
of his promise; which he excused at that

time, as a thing that might be done any day, for that he was engag'd in some Affairs of great Importance. Thus from time to time he had always some Studied Answ're to divert the discourse, which at last she found had no place in his intentions, and p'st no farther. However no Person; liv'd more amicably and friendly together, than I much question (were there not other more Substantial reasons to be given) whether an indissoluble Tye of two Persons, does not render their Converse more uneasy, and their whole Lives more querulous, than if it was only a Knot which each Person might unloose at pleasure. *Charlus* who was always of a Generous and Noble Temper (nor was *Bellinda* parcemonious) having one day an Occasion for two hundred pounds, began to consider his present Circumstances and inspect his accompts for the last seven years, when first his Acquaintance commenc'd with *Bellinda*; He found his Estate much impair'd by the negligence of Tenants, his Rent fallen one third, and the Body of the Estate sunk under a weighty Mortgage, which still prey'd upon the Vitals, besides several Debts abroad, which would grow clamorous and disreputable to him, and fifteen Hundred pounds, which he had receiv'd as *Bellinda's* Portion, was sometime since spent and forgo. ten the Unwelcome prospect he now had
of

of his Shatter'd Fortunes, rais'd different passions in his Labouring Breast, which after he had singly examin'd, he found himself only to blame, who either by his own Inadvertency or too much Confidence in others, had suffer'd his Estate to steal from him, without that prudeat observaance which might only preserve it. At last he resolv'd to disintangle himself from the trouble of Lands and Mortgages and part with all for a valuable consideration in Money over which he would keep a strick Eye. This he resolv'd and in part perform'd. He sold the whole Estate paid all his Debts, preserv'd his Reputation with the world, and had two Thousand pounds Overplus, to lay the foundation of a New fortune, which he promis'd himself might be easily done. But being naturally averse to business, & unwilling to descend below his former Grandeur, he so long defer'd it, that there was not Room left for that consideration, and Calling Bellinda one Morning into his Closet he shew'd her a draught of his present Misfortunes and withall told her there was but Three hundred left of the last two Thousand pounds, that tho' he never was Ceremoniously Married to her, yet he look'd upon himself as oblig'd to provide for her ; and not for that respect only, but as he ever had a most Sincere Love for her and that whatever distresses should befall him,

her

her Share should be the least in them. She began to Lament her great Unhappiness, who must shortly be Expos'd to the Injuries of the World, and the inclemency of Friends, when Charlus pray'd her patience to hear him a few words.

My Dear Bellinda, says Charlus, that my Affection have been hearty and unfeign'd you your self shall Judge, and think not that those vigorous Flames, which were first inkindled between us shall ever know decay or Period. Distress if rightly us'd, is but a poignant Sawe to whet our Cloy'd Appetites; Loves fire may be as intense in the heat, 'tho the Flames are not so active, but affliction Rowzes up the sleeping Embers and seems to give New Life and heat. But this I only speak as Consolatory, now to the poynt I intend; There is but one way to retrieve our drooping fortunes, and that with your approbation, I am resolv'd to prosecute, which is this, I have an Acquaintance in the City, a Person of Eminent Reputation, and my particular Friend, whose Assistance I am assur'd of in this affair

affair; You shall take two hundred and fifty pounds of this Money, a Footman and Two Maids to wait upon you, and assume a Name both honourable and well known in the West of England, and pass for a Gentlewoman of the same Name, of a very considerable Fortune and at her own disposal. My Friend I spoke of, shall take you fair Lodgings in a Merchants House, give you the Character I mention'd, and assist you in the whole Conduct of this design. Very well, says Bellinda, now you have reduc'd me to nothing, you intend to set me up for a Fortune, like a Gilt of the Town -- soft! says Charilus, you are too quick upon Me and overshoot the mark, this being done I'll go down into the Country, and reconcile my self to my Uncle, (who has a fair Estate, which I am next Heir at Law to, if he don't Cut of the Entail) and make use of my Countship to you, and the hopes I have of your Favour to Cement the difference between us, and Engage his Interest for the obtaining your Love, of which I know how to make good Advantage.

Well

Well then, and what must be the Issue of this?
Why nothing Child but an Establish'd Felicity to us both in Matrimony, and the Securing my Uncles Estate, when ever Heaven shall call him into a better World.

I know not how (says Bellinda) to trust any affair where there is Matrimony in it, it is a word so abus'd upon all occasions, and I my self have had some little Experience of it - but I forbear, that's a tender part. But doe what you please you shall always find me of the same obsequious humour.

Charlus having fixt this point, and seen Bellinda placed at a Merchants House, (where she had the Reputation of a Fortune of Eight Thousand pounds and five Hundred *li. per An.*) and made some Visits to her, he went down into the Country where his Uncle receiv'd him as a Gentleman and a stranger, of whom he had not heard a word this seven years, but as Common fame reported him to his disadvantage. After he had spent two dayes there, his Uncle came to a more easy familiarity, and enquir'd of his affairs blameing his Imprudent manage-

men

ment of his Estate and Riotous Expences, which *Charilus* in part Confess'd, and laid his finger where he thought his Uncle's Eye had not yet discover'd the blemish. this he thought a proper Season to discourse him, of his Courtship to *Bellinda* (whose Name we will preserve tho' her Character's alter'd) he assur'd him of her fortune and his Interest with her, and that if he would please to afford him, the least Umbrage of his favour he did not question Success, and that he should be not only able to repair the Breaches in his Estate, but considerably advance it by this plentifull Addition. His Uncle told him he had in so high a Measure forfeited his Esteem with him, that he might reasonably imagine he suffer'd as much in the Opinion of others; That this would be a work of great difficulty, and beside fortunes now a days were grown so common and Cuanning, that very often the most Judicious Eye, could not distinguish the real from the Counterfeit. After other reasonings on both sides the Uncle seem'd to be satisfied with *Charilus* his discourse of the fortune, and told him that if he would stay with him till Term which was not long, he would consider farther of it, and then he had business at London. During his stay in the Country, he wrote two Letters to *Bellinda*, which he Show'd

his

his Uncle and the Answers he receiv'd, by which he abated the difficulty of the Courtship so that now the great Quarrel was the certainty of the Estate and Money. At the beginning of Easter Term they both came up to London, and Charilus would have made a Visit the next Afternoon to his Mistress, but his Uncle told him the Taylor had been with him in the Morning, and promis'd him to bring his Clothes by twelve the next day, and that he had a mind to go along with him, if he would defer it to the next Afternoon, which Charilus consented to, and they accordingly went together. At the door he met with one of Bellinda's Maids, and ask'd if her Lady was within, who Answered, yes, pray Sweet heart, fayes he

*Present my very humble Service to her,
and let her Ladyship know my Name is
Charilus, who beg the Honour to kiss her
Hand.*

The Maid went up with the Message, and presently down came her Woman with this Answer.

*Sir, my Lady presents her Service to you,
She's something indispos'd at this time and
begs your pardon.*

Upon which Charilus and his Uncle return'd

to their Lodging. Where the Uncle Umph'd, and Umph'd! And told *Charitus*, this was a Sort of a cold indifferent Complement, which he excus'd, that Ladies of that quality and fortune did often put on State to give a greater value and Esteem to their Character. However the Uncle was much disatisfied to see his Nephew thus Slighted and urg'd, that they should make a Second Visit by Nine next Morning, which he Excus'd as not the Mode of the Town to Visit Ladies, but in the Afternoon. Next day he was Impatient till the Clock had struck Three, that he might have a Sight of this Lady, after three they made a Second attempt to a Visit, and sent up the same Message as before, but the Uncle for fear of some excuse pull'd *Charitus* by the Sleeve and followed the Servant up stairs, where they met her returning to Invite them up. At their entrance into the Dining Room, they saw the Lady at the Table talking with a Gentleman, and a great heap of writings and parchments before them, upon which *Charitus* stood back, but the Lady very familiarly call'd him in, and desir'd his Friend would please to walk in too, which Invitation the Uncle had already preveated out of his great Curiosity to see the Lady; *Charitus* saluted her with all imaginable respect and ask'd pardon for interrupting of
her

Her in the midst of Buisness. She answer'd, if was no great Buisness, this Gentleman was her Lawyer, and they had been looking over some loose papers, at which she turn'd the Carpet gently over them, and told the Gentleman if he pleas'd to come at Seven the Morning they would Inspect the rest, upon which he took his leave. Then she particularly apologiz'd for yesterdays rudeness as she pleased to call it, that indeed she had been busie all day wi h her Lawyer, was undrest, and understanding there was a stranger with you Sir, to *Charilus*, I was forc't to use the frequent excuse of our Sex, which I beg this Gentlemans pardon for -- to the Uncle, which Complement after he had taken care to Answer -- She invited them to sit down, and put on a most facetious and obliging Countenance. Amongst other discourse *Charilus* ask'd if the Painter had finished her Ladyships Picture yet, yes Sir, sayes she, it hangs in the withdrawing Room — and rising up, pray Sir, sayes she, give me your Opinion, whether it is like or No; with that *Charilus* waited upon her into the Room, and the Uncle (thinking it but common manners to let the Lovers be private at their first Enterview after so long a Vacation) stayed behid; *Charilus* gently putting the door too, which the Uncle observing began

to peep under the Carpet, where he saw several Bonds, Letters, and one Mortgage for four Thousand pounds. After half an Hours stay the Lovers return'd, and the Lady afresh excused the incivility of her absence, to a Gentleman of his quality, whom she now understand'd to be a near Relation to this Worthy Gentleman her Friend; Mutual Complements having pass'd between the Uncle and Lady they sat down, and fell upon other discourses. After half an Hours stay longer *Charlus* and his Uncle took leave of the Lady, and in the next street parted; his Uncle telling him he would make a particular Enquiry for his own Satisfaction, and within two dayes he would resolve him what he would do. Two days after he came early into his Chamber with a Letter in his Hand and told him he had weigh'd all Circumstances of Truth and improbability, had made a most particular Scrutiny into the Ladies fortune, her Relations, and whatever was to be consider'd upon that point, and did agree with him, that she was a most Beautifull Virtuous Lady and Mistress of the same Estate in Money and Land (if not more) as he first reported to him. That he was withall very sensible that she had more than ordinary Respect for him by those familiar kindnesses she Expressed, that de-

lay

lay was the greatest Enemy he could have in this affair, and whatever was resolv'd must be with Expedition. I do withall think it proper, sayer he, you should make her some Handsom present as either a Locket of Diamonds, a fair Necklace of Pearl, or what you think is most Modish and acceptable, Sir, says *Charilus*, I humbly thank you, you certainly advise the best Method that can be; yes, says the Uncle, interrupting of him, and you ought likewise to appear in a fine Gilt Chariot drawn by two *Flanders*, these are very taking with Young Ladies, they were so in my time, yes Sir, says *Charilus*, but my present Stock of Money will not reach so far, and I am unwilling to run in debt to Tradesmen it may prove a disadvantage to me, if known, you are in the right says his Uncle, and I did fear as much, and for that reason I have here writ a Letter to *Bedley* my Steward, to furnish you with Eight Hundred, or a Thousand pounds, which you would rather have, and do you take it, and go down into the Country with all speed, if he has not so much in his Hands let him raise it of the Tenants, but I expect, Nephew, you shall return it to me Six Months after Marriage: which *Charilus* submissively promis'd to do, and to take Post immediately into the Country. *Charilus* overjoy'd at this great

Blessing

Blessing of fortune beyond his utmost Expectation, Stole a Visit first to *Bellinda*, and told her all his Uncle had said, shewed the Letter, and after they had Congratulated each other in this happy Success, took leave for the Countrey promising all speed in his return. In the Afternoon the Uncle made a Visit to the Lady, and talking Jocosely of Marriage, made his address to her, & told her, if she could comply with a little disproportion of Age, no Person had more Vigorous Flames, or a more passionate affection to her Service then himself, that as for his Nephew, to whom he believ'd she had some respect, he was a wild Extravagant Young Man, that he who had already ruin'd his own fortune, would be unsafely trusted with another's, and an Empire in the Cup of a Voluptuary would be as soon quaff'd, as that Narrow Spot left by paternal care, which his Riotous humour had already Spent, and yet not quench'd his Thirst. The Lady was very much Surpriz'd at his discourse, and told him she rather expected he would have been an Advocate in his Nephew's behalf, then have furnish'd her with such powerfull Arguments of disesteem. The Uncle made his Attack so close and quick, that she began seriously to consider of her own Circumstances, and at last told him, it was a matter of so great Moment he could

could not reasonably expect a present Answer. After some other discourses to the same purpose the Uncle took his leave, promising to wait upon her the next day. Upon the Second visit he presented her with a Necklace of Pearl, and a Gold Watch studded with diamonds, which he beg'd of her to accept, and in the close of all told her she had a clear Estate of a Thousand pounds per Annum besides Money abroad, that he would settle Six Hundred pounds a year in Jeynture, and what more she pleas'd of her own fortune. The Lady thank'd him for his great Respects to her, and those Generous offers he was pleas'd to make, that was she determined, as she was yet no wayes inclin'd to Marry; She should Entertain as worthy and deserving thoughts of himself as of any other Gentleman in England. The Esquire, for to that Title his Character is now grown up, looking upon this last Answer to be as absolute a Surrender as would Conift with her Modesty, told her that from the first Minute he had the happiness to see her, he was struck with Love and admiration, that he designedly sent his Nephew into the Country upon an *April Errand*, that he might have the freer acces to her Person, and then earnestly prest the Wedding might be ever before his return.

*At last She told him, within two dayes
He shoule have the Result of her more seri-
ous Consideration.*

Belinda was now more pos'd than ever which way to Steer, the Uncles great kindness to *Charles* was but Counterfeit, but to her reall, that it was much better to save one, then that they both shoeld perish, nay, this might preserve both, for upon this Marriage she hop'd to be in a Condition to serve him; Nor was she so much too blame who had been ruin'd by one Branch of the Family, if she prudently Endeavour'd her safety by another, and the Uncle repair thole Breaches the Nephew had made, Thus she ponder'd the Morning before she exp:cted his return, and at last resolv'd to Marry him, but first secure the Joyniture. In the Afternoon came the Esquire, and after a Cunning Harangue of reason all in his own Commendation why she should Marry him, she declar'd her consent, That as to matter of Joynture, She was well satisfied with the six Hundred pounds a year at present, and what part of her own fortune he would put into her Hands, should be as he pleas'd at his own time. Thus the Bargain was made, and her Lawyer who was prepar'd before Hand, sent for and order'd to make the Joynture upon such particulars and to be ready upon Thursday Morning by Eight, when

when the Joynure was Seal'd and the Espousals Consummated. *Charilus* came late to Town the same Night, to his Uncles Lodgings, with a return of Eight Hundred pounds, and waiting his coming in till it grew late, went to Bed, in the Morning early he ask'd what time his Uncle came in, and if he was yet stirring. The Servant told him he did not come in all Night, nor had he seen or heard from him since he last went out the Morning before. *Charilus* was very much troubled at this, fearing some Misfortune had befallen him (which was true enough, tho' not in his Sense) but not knowing where readily to find him, he went first to give *Bellinda* a Visit, and acquaint her with the Joyfull News of the Eight Hundred pounds, when offering to go into the Bed-Chamber her Maid would have stopped him, which he took little Notice of, but prest in, and saw some Body in Bed with the Lady, Upon which in the greatest rage and fury he drew his Sword, and Swore he would be the death of that Villain who had thus abus'd him. The Uncle crept under the sheet for fear expecting the Sword either in his heart or Guts at each Oath he Swore, *Bellinda* was strangely Surpriz'd, and Shrick'd out for help, whilst *Charilus* discharg'd whole Valleys of Oaths and Curses on those two miserable Wretches, and violently

violently pulling down the Cloaths, discovered his own Dear Uncle in Bed with his Mistress. *Charles* at this was no less astonished, then they affrighted, when *Bellinda* interpel'd, and desired his patience but for two words; Sir, says she, I beseech you Compose your self, and be not angry with this Gentleman or my self, for we are Man and Wife. This was so amazing a Story he did not know what to answer to it, but after a little pause, considering it as a truth, there might be a good improvement made of it, he fell into a violent passion with his Uncle, call'd him all the infamous Names he could invent, and with the point of his Sword threatened immediate Vengeance upon that false Heart, which had so basely and Treacherously supplanted him. After his passion was grown more cool, the Uncle offered terms of reconciliation, and acknowledged the hainousness of his crime in betraying that trust he had repos'd in him and Robbing him of a Mistress of so considerable a Fortune, for all which he was ready to make present Satisfaction. The terms agreed upon were these, that *Charles* should have the Eight Hundred pounds now in his Hands, and his Uncle make over to him four Hundred pounds a year out of his Estate, and put him into immediate possession of it.

in consideration of the Injury he had done him in the loss of his Mistres, all which the Uncle performed that day according to the Tenor of the Articles. Within a Month after he discover'd some part of his own Errour, as to the mistake of the Fortune, but nothing farther, however they went down into Oxfordshire together, where in less then a Twelve-Month he dyed, and Bellinda's Joynture being an Entail'd Estate came into Charilus his Hands, who in Memory of former kindnesses was highly Generous and Noble to her.

Here Sir, sayes Florimel, should I conclude with my story, but that I have something to say by way of Consolation to you Melintus, and therefore beg leave to carry on Bellinda's Character one step farther.

This Lady Sir, after the death of her Husband came up to London, and tho' she had for some years of her acquaintance with Charilus resided here, yet was she seldom abroad, and not at all known to the Gallants of the Town, so that upon her return she pass'd for a New Face, and was generally thought to be a Maid.

Amongst other Sparks who made search up and down for fresh Beauties, that Match-

Matchless piece of Chivalry, Sir —
 was one, you all know, who was the Person that first discover'd that Notable way of affronting Ladies of Quality by breaking their Windowes with Crown pieces; It was his fortune to Meet with this Lady and after some necessary Treats to introduce a more familiar acquaintance, he fell Smart upon her, but all in vain, her Honour was Lodg'd in an impregnable Fortress; when that would not do, he betook himself to his last Remedy, Marriage; Offer'd a fair Joynure and whatever else should be thought convenient, this at last was approved of, but the Knight was mistaken in his Measures she would yeild up no part of the premises till the Joynure was Seal'd, and the Marriage compleated; which, rather than lose his longing he consented to. A short time after the Wedding, he ask'd her what reason she imagin'd more particularly Influenced him to Love her, when she could not Guess, he told her, it was for her strict Virtue and Chastity, for he had made a Resolution never to Marry any whom he cou'd

prevail upon without it, and that is the reason that tho' I have Courted Hundreds I was never Married till now; Why look you Sir sayes she, I had that Trick put upon me once too, but I was resolv'd I would never be Catch'd Twice with the same Bait.

Now Sir, as to the application, why should you be in the Dumps and Melancholy; hide your self from your Friends, and call those Stars, you ought to Bless by all the Naughty Names you can think of, when who knows but that beloved she might have prov'd another Bellinda, and take her as the best -- but with your permission I have done Sir.

The Company all Laugh'd heartily, and Melintus could not forbear a publick smile, I knew sayes he, we should have one Roguish Story or another, I expected it Flotimel, but above all commend me to your close, where you come off with a Kellish indeed — Parmenio, says Melintus, I shink it now falls into your division, pray will you oblige us with a Story that may Tempet

*Temper the heat and passion of Florimels,
and Compose us to our wonted Gravity.*

NOVEL the Fifth,

By PARMENIO.

A Gentleman who had been formerly a Merchant in the City of London, and acquir'd a considerable Estate, withdrew into the Country, having spent his younger years in the Noise and hurry of Business, resolved now to enjoy the fruits of his Labours in quiet, and Gratifie himself with Solitude and Retirement; having a fair House in *Hertfordshire*, he inclined to fix there, where he was eminently hospitable to the Gentry, and Charitable to the poor. But that he might not be out of all concern of business in the world like an idle person, he still kept some Ventures abroad, which he called the poors Stock, in which and all other his endeavours, providence blest his Industry with that constant success, that he used familiarly

arly to say he grew Rich in spight of his Teeth,
for if he shut Money out at the door, it would
come in at the Window. This Gentleman at
his death left only one Child a Daughter call'd
Joanna, to whom he gave a very great Fortune,
and committed the care of her Person and ma-
nagement of her Estate to two Gentlemen her
Guardians. She was now about Eight years
old when she desir'd she might (as she usually
did once a year) go see her Uncle, a Gentleman
of fair Reputation and good Estate in *Eſſex*,
which they granted, and ſent her over attended
with two Servants. After ſhe had been there a
Month, her Uncle who was a passionate Man,
catching her in ſome fault threatned to whip
her; She farther provoking him with ſome
Scurvy reply, he did ſo, at which time as ſhe
cryed out, was heard to ſay by ſome of the
Neighbours, *O pray Uncle don't kill Me*, which
neither he or any of the Family took much No-
tice of at that time. The next Morning early
She stole out of the House, and after ſhe had
wander'd ſome Hours not knowing whether to
go, met with a Company of *Gipſies* who took
her up, made much of her, changing her
Cloths and ſtaining her Complexion, brought
her with them in few dayes to *Lo:don*, and from
thence went their Rounds into *Hampſhire*,
Wilts

Wiltshire, and about the Country. The Uncle missing his Neece next day, made all possible Enquiry after her, sent to all the Neighbouring Villages, search'd all the publick Roads, but could not receive any account of her. He next sent into *Hartforshire* to her Guardians to know if she was return'd home, but meeting with no satisfaction, concluded that some young Gentleman who knew she would be a great fortune had Stole her, and carried her far away to some distant County where she lay conceal'd. This the Guardians believed too, till some of the Neighbors at their Gossipping, were prattling what they heard others say, and began to wish seriously that it was not too true, especially when they consider'd that if the Child dyed in her Minority, the whole Estate would descend to the Uncle. This was buzz'd about till at last it reach'd the Guardians Ears, who making more particular enquiry into the truth of it, were inform'd by some of the Neighbours that the Night before the Child was missing, they heard her cry out most lamentably, pray Uncle don't kill Me, this they consider'd as an odd Circumstance to happen just the Night before, and asked the Persons who thus informed, if they could safely take their Oaths of it, and would do so before a Magistrate, who said yes,

it was all true and nothing but the truth. After some deliberation they acquainted the Uncle what the Neighbours said, and how nearly it did touch his Reputation now, and might his Life hereafter, if his Niece was not found. He told them he was altogether innocent of any Injury done to her, nor did he remember that ever she said so, tho' he own'd he whipt her severely, which was for telling a notorious Lye, and using some other indecent expressions, which he thought she deserved to be Corrected for. Upon this all the ponds and Rivers were search'd, and a considerable reward promis'd to any Person, who could give an account of her alive or dead. No News being heard of her, the Neighbours began to Grumble and said, that the Guardians and Uncle had Complotted to Murder the Child and Share her Estate: This being now grown a publick discourse in the Country to the great disadvantage of their Reputation, who before were Esteem'd as Gentlemen of Honour and integrity; They resolv'd to probe the bottom of this cause, and prosecute the Uncle as far as the Law directed them. Accordingly they went over into Essex, and sent for him to a Gentleman's House who was his Neighbour, and a Justice of the peace: Being altogether, the Guardians complain'd

to the Justice of this report, and desir'd him that he would take Cognizance of it as far as the Law required, that if possible their Reputations, and the Gentlemans might be preserved free from such an undeserved calumny. The Justice sent for the witnesses, who Swore positively that on such a Night, which was the immediate Night before she was missing, they heard her cry out with a lamentable voice, *pray Uncle don't kill Me.* Upon which the Justice bound the Uncle in a Recognizance of two Thousand pounds to appear at the next Assize, and the Guardians in a bond of five Hundred to prosecute the Uncle. In this Interval the Uncle having used all the probable means for a discovery that humane Wit could imagine, but not being able to make any, began to think what was to be done, the time of the Assize drew on, and then he should certainly be Indicted for the Murder of Joanna, nor had he any way to clear his Innocence against such Circumstantial Evidence, but by a down-right Negation, which though some of his Friends might Credit, would yet take no place in a Court of Judicature. Having thus considered the difficulty of his Case, he at last resolved thus. In his search after ~~Joanna~~, he had found a poor Mans Daughter in another County, who both in Age, Features,

and Complexion, so much resembled her that at first sight he thought she had been the real same, now says he to himself, if I can get this Girle of her Parents, and dress her up in the same habit, Joanna wore, the very Guardians shall not distinguish her from their own Pupil, she will appear so like the very same, nor have I any other course but this to preserve my self, he accordingly did so, and for a Sum of Money bought the Girl of her poor Relations, diligently instructed her in the part she was to act, who being of a ripe Wit and very apprehensive had her Lesson to a hair. A day or two before the Assize, he gave out he had by great fortune found his Neece, brings her home to his House with her real Father and Mother, who gave a satisfactory account to all persons how accidentally they found her in a wood almost Starv'd, and She not rememb'ring from whence She had wandred they Entertained her amongst their own Children. The Girl own'd how she Stole away for fear her Uncle should whip her again as he threatned, all which Romance hung so well together, that the Guardians believ'd her the same, and no body question'd the truth. At the Assize he was call'd to appear which accordingly he did, the Judge asked him for his Neece Joanna if she was found yet, Yes, my Lord, says the

the Gentleman, she is in Court, Very well, sayes my Lord, produce her, and bid the Guardians appear, accordingly they did, and the Counterfeite Joanna, Are you satisfied, to the Guardians sayes the Judge, that this is your Pupil, the Daughter of Mr. —— with whom you were left in trust? Yes, my Lord, said the Guardians, After a farther account how she was found the Judge order'd their Recognizance should be withdrawn, and the Uncle discharged. It hap-pened that an old Woman who was in Court about other business, hearing what a Bustle had been made about her young Mistress, and that she was found again; as they came out of Court crowded to see her, and looking full up-on her, believed it to be the same, but the Girl not taking Notice of her, She cryed out, O Mistress you don't know Me, upon which She answer'd presently, no, what sayes She, don't you know old Nurse? I am sure you are not the same then, upon this the Girl was startled, the Guardians made a stop and asked her how she came to forget Nurse so soon, she not give-ing a present answer, they began to suspect something and brought her again into Court and Nurse with her.

The old Woman said, She did believe

it,

it had been the same at first, but upon review she much question'd it, that she herself had Nurſt her till ſhe was almost four years old, and if it was her Miſtress ſhe had a Scar upon her left Arm above the Elbow.

The Judge ordered they ſhould look upon her Arm, which they did, and reported there was no Scar above but one below the Elbow, upon this it was generally believ'd ſhe was the lame, and all things ſet right again. However the Judge ſeem'd more diſatisfied then before, ordered the Uncle to withdraw, and examined the Girl, Afterwards the Man apart, who ſaid he had found her in a Wood, and then the woman, and here he found they all diſagreed in one point or other, at length by crossing the account of the Man and Wife, and then conſidering that both the Guardians and Nurſe agreed the true Joanna, muſt needs have remembred her Nurſe, ſince it was not a Twelve Month ago ſince ſhe ſaw and paſſicularly knew her, they agreed it was yet a Cheat, which the Woman for fear of punishment, firſt Confeſt, and then her husband own'd it, and laſtly the Girl; They proved the Receipt of ſo much Money at ſuch a time, proved by ſeveral neighbours, who had known this Girl for

for five or six years together, that she alwayes
was look'd upon and reputed as their own Child:
and alwayes liv'd with them. Upon this dis-
covery an Indictment was preferr'd against the
Uncle, for the Murder of his Neece *Joanna*, but
he having no proof to clear himself by, and this
appearing with so foul a Face against him, he
was Condemn'd to be hang'd, and was within a
Week after Executed. It fortuned about nine
years after at the Summer Assize at *Notting-
ham*, two young Gentlemen who were lately
call'd to the Bar, whereof the Judges Son was
one, walking out early one Morning in the
fields they saw a whole Covie of Gipsies under a
Hedge, when they came near, two of them stept
out, and in their Cant told them a great deal
of good fortune by looking into their Hands,
and viewing the lines of the Face as they pre-
tend, upon which one Gentleman threw them
a Shilling, the other call'd them idle Whores,
and said they deserv'd to be whipt for publick
Cheats, upon which one of them a tall black
Girl told him, he ought not to despise a Gipsie
for he should Marry one before he was Three
Months older, at this the Gentlemen fell a
laughing and entertain'd them with other like
discourse; when they came home one of them
wist his gold Watch, and another had lost all
his

his Money. They began to grow angry to be thus Cheated, and getting a Constable very luckily, met with these two going off another way ; They charg'd them with the Watch and Money, which they as peremptorily denied, upon which the Constable brought them along into open Court which was then sitting, upon Examination they denied the Fact, nor could they upon search find either about them. However, the Judge ordered them to be soundly lash'd for Vagrants, and sent out of Town, as the Constable was taking them away, the Gentleman who was the Judges Son, call'd out so closely to the Constable, pray favour the black-woman, for she tells me, I shall Marry a Gipsie within these three Months ; which his Father overhearing call'd them back again, and ask'd them

*How long they had pretended to telling
of Fortunes, I had thought, sayes the Judge,
all your Trade had been Picking of Pockets ;
No, and please you my Lord sayes the
black-Woman, my profession is only tel-
ling of Fortunes, I never understood nor
practised such unlawfull Arts, at which
the Court laugh'd ; My Lord then
ask'd*

ask'd (seeing her a good favour'd young Woman, and so quick in her Answers) what Country Woman she was, to which she said, she thought Hartfordshire. Then he askt, if she was born a Gipsy; She said No, but she was as good, for she had been Nine years Apprentice to a Gipsy. At which he ask'd her, if she had e're a Christian Name, yes, my Lord, sayes she, I think so, for my Name is Joanna, the Judge hearing the Name Joanna recollected himself, and remembred the Story of the Essex Gentleman, who was by him Condemn'd for Murdering his Neece of that Name. He then asked her, if she had ever been in Essex, or had any Relations there; She said, not since she was very Young, which was at the time she met with the Gipsys first, and then she had an Uncle there, who used her very hardly, and so she ran away from him, and was never there since, nor never Enquired after him. Upon this he concluded her to be the same Person, and call'd to the Constable

stable and told him, he should not let them be whipt, but carry them home to his own House and Entertain them there, till the Court was up, and then he should receive farther Orders. The whole Court at this began to Wonder, and believe one or both of them to be Gentlewomen of good Families, nor did they spare telling the young Gentleman that for ought they knew it might be his Fortune indeed to Marry a Gipsy, if this Young Woman should prove to be a Person of Quality and Estate, which fell out even so, for the Assizes being over, the Judge who had a Seat in Hartfordshire, and had known her Father formerly, brought her up in his Coach, and presented her to the Guardians who own'd her to be the same Person, which the Nurse and all her Surviving Relations Confirm'd. At the same time his Lordship, who knew her to be a very great Fortune, propos'd a Match between his Son and her which she Franckly consented to, and

and was presently after Solemniz'd.

Thus ended Parmenio when the whole Company Bow'd their respects, and were all extreamly pleas'd with the fortune of the Gipsy, But Sir, sayes Melintus, I could have wish'd you had carried a lighter Hand over the hard fate of the Uncle, whom I pity with all my Heart. Sir, sayes Parmenio, I could have wish'd it had not been true, but as it is so under unquestionable Evidence, I durst not give my Hand the Liberty of one sweetning Stroke.

Now, Madame, sayes Melintus to Evadne, we must beg the next favour from your fair Hands, No Sir, said she, your power with me always Commands.

NOVEL the Sixth

By E V A D N E,

O *Rithia* the Beauty of her Sex and Glory of her Age, was the Daughter of an English Earl, of an Antient Family, whose Noble Acts in Chivalry stands first upon Record in our most early Histories. Her great Wit and Excellent Sweetness of Temper obliged all who had the Honour of her Acquaintance, which every Gentleman both Courted, and admir'd. And if amongst those Thousands who were ready to Sacrifice their bleeding hearts to the fair *Rithia*, any was thought to have a more particular interest in her Favour, it was the Lovely *Philanthus*, who was only
able

able to make a Reprisall of Hearts amongst the Ladies, for those *Orithia* Captivated from the Men. *Philanthus* his Family was somewhat inferiour, but much more Opulent, he being the Eldest Branch of it, who for the great Service of his Father, (who lost his Life in the Wars against the *French*) had the Honour of Knight-hood Confer'd upon him, whilst yet a School-boy, by his Gracious Prince. The Assiduous Address of *Philanthus*, his kind Reception, and more intimate familiarity oblig'd us all to believe he would be that happy Conquerour, who should carry off this Noble prize from the Rest of the despairing world. But amongst those Stars which influence the great affairs of Love, some are kind and propitious, whilst others infect their good intents by their poysinous Neighbourhood, some such unhappy Conjunction there was which suddenly blasted *Philanthus* his blooming hopes, rob'd him of all his Glorious

Glorious Expectations and left him the
Pity or the Scorn of his Rivals.

The *Count de Montallo* who was Ambassadour from the Duke of *Savoy*, at the English Court, being shortly to return, and having often admired the Beautiful *Orithia*, as the most lovely Creature his Eyes yet beheld, made his private Addresses to her, and without the knowledge or Consent of her Relations was Matried to her.

My Lord, her Father, and all her Friends were extreamly concern'd at it, there not being any but who gave *Philanthus* the Encouragement to hope he should be that happy Person, nor had he any reason to question *Orithia's* Favour, till the Count made his applications, and then the Ambition of being so great a Countess soon prevail'd over the more easy powers of Love. Within four days after, *Orithia* went along with the Count her Husband for *Savoy*, without seeing or taking leave of any of her Friends,

Friends or Relations. This sudden Marriage with the Count had at first extremely incensed my Lord her Father, but considering she had Honourably disposed her self, without the Charge of a weighty portion, which his Circumstances could not so conveniently spare, he now called that prudence and discretion, which before he thought a rash and inconsiderable Action. After her Arrival at Savoy, for three years she liv'd as happy & as great as heart could wish, the Count her Husband lov'd her above all the World, and his Estate, which was very considerable, was absolutely at her Command. No Empress, tho' she might have more large Domains, was better belov'd, or more willingly obeyed than she was. It happened that the Duke of Savoy making Wars upon some of the Neighbouring Princes appointed the Count de Montalbo General of his Army, which was an Honour he could not refuse, though with some regret

regret he parted from the Arms of his beloved *Orithia*. That he might leave the affairs of his Family under the better Government, he appointed three of his Friends as Commissioners to take an account of his Rents, assist the Countess upon all occasion with their Advice, and manage all his business to his greatest advantage and reputation. To these he added one more, who was the honest *Sabrina* as he used to call him, a Gentleman of some Relation to the Count, but his intimate Friend and Confident. The Duke being now with his Army, and not expected back till a peace was concluded, which was yet but uncertainly discours'd ; *Sabrina*, who had the largest Commission of any of the rest, and much more respected, considered that this was the only opportunity his heart could wish for, to compleat those desires he had so long languished under. Accordingly one day coming up to the Countess, as if upon some

some Urgeat business, he found her alone in her Closet, where without any regard to the Honour of the Count, the Vertue of the Lady, which he had no reason to suspect, or to the Modesty and good manners in himself, of which he ought to have had some share, he dis^d cover'd his unlawfull passion, which she received with that abhorrence and detestation that he was well assured he was now undone for ever, if he did not preserve himself by being the first Accuser, tho' he had nothing to Charge the spotless *Orithia* with, but what was false as Hell or Devils could invent. However envenom'd malice will want neither Instruments or Methods to perfect its Revenge; tho' what wrong had *sabrina* received? He first gives the affront, and then demands Satisfaction, and first Tempts the Lady with his lascivious address', then calls himself injur'd, so great a Crime is it to be good and Virtuous in the prospect of those who

are wicked and debauch'd. *Sabrino*, that he might lose no opportunity, sent presently to the three Commissioners to meet him at his own Chamber, where he told them,

*He had a secret of that importance to communicate to them and of that strange surprize, that he wanted words to express the present Horror of his thoughts ; I have for some time suspected, and I wish I could say I did yet but suspect, Oh shall I speak it ! The Fidelity and Chastity of the Countress-- upon which one of them told him, Sir, I will as soon believe, the Glorious Cherubins may be tainted in their pure Angelic Natures, as that any Temptation of dishonesty hath or ever shall alloy the Virtue of that immaculate Lady. Oh Sir, says *Sabrino*, be not too forward I once thought so too, but I am afraid I shall be able to convince you sooner then you or I could wish for. In the Interim pray make your own Observations, and let this pass no farther.*

Sabrino

Salrino had a Nephew a proper young Gentleman, who had been Page to the Count in England, and since his return, was prefer'd to be Gentleman Usher to the Countess; This Gentleman he sent for privately to his Chamber, and told him he understood what a particular kindness the Countess had for him, and that now was the time for him to make his fortunes in the absence of his Lord. The young Gentleman told him he did not understand his meaning; O Nephew (said he) are you so short sighted, why the Countess is in love with you above all the World, and wants nothing but an opportunity, to compleat yours and her own happiness in Bed, which I have promised her this Night: Wherefore you must in the Evening pretend to go Sick to Bed, and then undress to your Gown, and Steal into the Countess's Chamber, and lye under the Bed till she gives you Notice to come forth, but be sure no Body sees you enter her

Chamber, if they do, make some excuse and go out again and so wait till you have an opportunity : pray Uncle, (sayes the young Gentleman) did the Countess her self bid you tell me thus ? I, I, She her self bid me, and said that very suddenly she would make you Gentleman of the Horse. The innocent Gentleman discovered not the Snares his Uncle had laid for him, but in the Evening accordingly did so : after Sabrino had been at his Chamber and found him not there, nor about the House, he concluded he was then safely Lodg'd under the Bed, and a little before the Countess went to her Chamber, sent for the Commissioners, and told them, *he was inform'd that the Countess's Gallant was to be with her that Night, but who he was that he could not tell ;* Sabrino and the rest concluded to pretend some extraordinary business, to be dispatched that Night and to desire to speak with her as soon as her Women had left her, and then if there was any Gallant,

Gallant, they should certainly discover him, if not give the Countess no reason to suspect their design. Accordingly they did so, and coming softly up stairs knock'd at her Chamber door, an old Gentlewoman (who had formerly been her Nurse) lay in the Chamber with her and was going into Bed, when she heard some Body knock at the Chamber door, She asked who was there, And their business, to which one of them answered, we are the Commissioners and want to speak one word with her Honour upon Urgent business, which was forgot before, and must be dispatched this Night. She acquainted the Countess with what they said, who ordered her to let them in. As they were by her Bed-side discoursing with her, Sabrina cryes out, *I, here he is, here's the Rogue,* and pulls his Nephew by the heels from under the Bed, and calling him Rogue, Villain and Traytor, to abuse so good a Lord, struck him through the heart with his Sword,

before he could speak one word to Vindicate himself or his Ladies Honour. It was now in vain for the Countess to Endeavour to purge her self from a Crime which appeared against her by so Notorious an Evidence, tho' she did in the presence of several Worthy persons take the Sacrament upon it, that as she never had been Guilty against her Husband's Bed, so she knew nothing of that Persons being there; that it was all the malicious Contrivance of *Sabino* (whose unlawful desires she had refused with Scorn and contempt) that had now plotted this Revenge to Rob her of her life and Hoaour at the same time. This some believ'd, who thought the Countess to be as uncorrupt as Vertue it self. But others said here's plain demonstration against her, and she who dares commit Adultery, will not stick at a lye to defend her Guilt. The Commissioners writ a Letter to the Count to acquaint him with this unhappy News, in which

which they gave a most particular ac-
count, and in the Close highly Com-
mended the Fidelity and Justice of *Sa-
brino*, who seeing his Honour abused,
would not spare his nearest Relation.
The Count was astonished at the News
above any Misfortune that could have
happened, and notwithstanding this de-
monstration, as they call'd it in their
Letter, he put a greater Confidence in
the Justice and integrity of the Coun-
teess; then in all their Solemn protestati-
ons. And as he sent them word

*He was extreamly troubled for the
Countess that she should lye under so heavy
an Aspersion, which if he did not believe
the World would, and therefore with pray-
ers for her deliverance (if Innocent) did
resign her up to the Law, so he should have
been much better satisfied in the Guilt of
his Wife, if Sabrino had spar'd his Kins-
mans Life, in that Transport of rage in
which he kill'd him.*

Upon the Receipt of this Letter the
Commissioners.

Commissioners, (as the Custom is there) disposed the Countess into a Nunnery, where She is to continue a year and a day, and if in that time no Champion appears to justify her Innocence against her Accuser, She is upon the last day brought into the List appointed for the Combatants (if there be any) and there burnt at a Stake, which death she Legally suffers if her Champion has the worst of it. The Countess was highly sensible of this as the greatest affliction that ever befell her, yet her own Innocence, and the Satisfaction that arose from thence made the distress much more easy and supportable. The Count was still Engag'd in the Wars, and the Countess had now been three quarters of a year a Prisoner in the Nunnery, and no Person appear'd in her behalf to Vindicate her Honour and Virtue. She now consider'd that the small remainder of her Life would soon be gone, and unless some Gentleman would Entertain such Honourable

nourable thoughts of her, as to believe her Guiltless, and Engage his Life to preserve hers, she must certainly suffer, and as no Person had yet offer'd himself, so was she altogether at a loss where to find that Gallant Friend. At last amongst other English Gentlemen who had been formerly her Friends and Acquaintance, She fixt upon *Philanthus*, but at the same time Corrected her Errour in thinking that he who believed himself the most disengaged of all Mankind, should now hazard his Life to Vindicate her Reputation, No, certainly he would be pleas'd to hear of her Miseries, and rejoice to see her proud heart now humbled under the deepest afflictions, but on the other Hand considering him as a Gentleman, a Person of unquestionable Courage and Gallantry, and one whose former affections were most sincerely devoted to her Service, he would rather Court such an opportunity to lay an everlasting obligation on her

which all her Treasury of thanks and Gratitude should be too poor to recompence. And this took place in her resolution; Accordingly She writ a Letter to *Philanthus*, and sent it by a Gentleman who had been formerly her Servant, with orders where to find or Enquire for him at *London*, and to deliver him that Letter, receive his Answer, and return with all speed. *Philanthus* who had still the same respect and love for *Orithia* as would consist with Honour, having read the Letter, was extreamly troubled at it, but at the same time being Ruin'd himself in his Fortunes, his mind sunk under the load of miseries which opprest him, writ back a most passionate Letter of excuse, with which she was no less affected as well for his as her own sake. *Orithia* Spent her short time (which now wanted but a week of the fatal day) in recommending her Soul to Heaven, wholly despairing of any relief on Earth. *Philanthus* having since

since seriously considered the present distress of the Countess, and that she must for ever suffer in her Memory, which to all Noble Spirits is Ten times worse then a Thousand deaths, and that though in his excuse to her he had not put his own interest or business into the Scale to ballance against her Life and Honour; But that Strange and unexpected disasters had reduced him to that mean degree of want that he was not able to Equip himself for the Service; Yet this from a Generous Spirit was mean and pitifull, that however his Friends would not assist him here, he could want nothing there of Horse or Arms a *Cavalier* could ask. After he had ponder'd a while on this thought he went to a Gentleman of his intimate acquaintance, show'd him the Letter, and beg'd of him to furnish him with Moneys for that design which he did, and *Philanthus* a short time after went privately over to *Savoy*. Being arrived

at Turenne he Enquired at what Nunnery the Countess de Montalio was, and what the general opinion were concerning her Guilt or Innocence; Understanding the Nunnery was Thirty Miles from Turenne, and that all Persons spoke well of her & did believe her falsely accused, he went directly thither. Being come within Four Miles of the Nunnery, by the side of a great Wood, he spied a Hermits Cell, at which alighting, he ask'd of the Holy Father, what the discourse was about the Countess, he told him that in a fair Plain before the Nunnery, she was to suffer to Morrow Morning before Eleven of the Clock, if there was no Person found so hardy to fight her Accuser, nor did he yet hear of any Champion who had appear'd in her behalf. Upon which he told him, he had a very great desire to see her before she suffer'd, but he suppos'd it would be very difficult to obtain that Favour unless he had on a Religious habit, and if he would do him that kindness to lend him his

Weeds

Weeds, he would walk over that Afternoon
and return in the Evening, and leave his
Horse and Armour there till he came back;
the Hermit very readily agreed to it,
then *Philanthus* (who spoke *Italian* well)
put on his Weeds, and in all Respects
appear'd to be a grave Religious Hermit,
having a long Beard and all things
answerable: He was now Arriv'd
at the Nannery, and out of Respect to
his habit (for Hermits are there had in
great Veneration) was immediately
conducted into the Countesse's Cham-
ber, where entring, those Nunns who
were attending upon her withdrew, that
she might have the more freedom of dis-
course with this Religious Father. He
stayed with her three Hours, and was
as well satisfid of her Innocency and
Sabrina's Roguery as his heart could
wish. Asking her, if she had no hopes of any
Friend to appear in the Lists to Morrow
on her behalf, She said, No, She never sent
but to one English Gentleman, and his Mis-
fortune

fortunes happen'd at the same time to be almost as great as her own. When he took his leave of the Countess, she pull'd off a Diamond Ring from her Finger, and told him, *Holy Father, I am oblig'd to you above what I am able to Express for your Prayers, and good Advice, I have nothing of Worldly Goods left Me to dispose of but this Ring, which was given Me by my Brother in England, a little before I Married into this Country, I pray accept it, and keep it for my sake.* The Hermit receiv'd it with all Thankfulness, and taking his leave, burst out into tears to see so great a Beauty reduc'd to those thin meagre looks, and that Virtue of which she had so large a portion should be Triumph'd over by wickedness and Villainy. At parting the Countess shook him by the Hand and chearfully bid him not weep, this was the last day she could be miserable. *Philanthes* return'd to the Cell where he again put on his own Habit, and told the Hermit what he thought of the

the Innocency of the Countess. The next Morning at Nine of the Clock the Countess all in white, was brought from the Nunnery into a fair adjacent plain, in the middle of which was fixt a Stake, with a great deal of dryed Wood and other Combustible Matter. On a large Scaffold on one side was a Chair plac'd for the Countess, and at the other end a Tribunal Erected for those who were appointed to see the Execution perform'd, and if there should happen to be any Combatants, to determine any matter of difference that should arise. The Judges being Seated on the Tribunal and the Countess in the Chair, Proclamation was made, that if any Person would Venture to Wage War in defence of the Countess de Montallo's Innocency, Seignior Sabrino the Accuser was ready to Answer him at single Combat. Before this Proclamation was made, all the Drums, Trumpets, Clarions and Instruments of field Musick first sounded, & then the principal

of the Judges gave order for the first Proclamation, and so for the Second; when being ready to give the last Summons, at a distance appear'd a Champion who by the waving of his Sword, gave Notice what he intended, he was Mount'd on a Milk white Courser in black Mourning Armour, his Beaver fast lock't down, his Device, the Sun Shining gloriously from a Cloud upon distrested Innocence, which was a Virgin habited all in white. As soon as this strange Champion was Enter'd the Lists, a Herald demanded of him *who he was that came thus Arm'd?* he told him, *he came to lose his Life or Vindicate the Honour of the Countess of Montalio, who was unjustly accus'd by a Rogue a Liar and a Vilain; and that he would prove him to be.* Upon this the Herald demanded of the Countess, if she was willing to Venture her Life and Honour upon the Success of her Champion, to which she answer'd, *yes, I pray God prosper him.* Immediately after upon the Sound

Sound of the Trumpets, the two Warriors set Spurrs to their Horses, and in the first Career, the Ladies Champion had the worst, and lost one of his Stirrups, when recovering himself he redoubled that disadvantage upon his Enemy, having broke their Spears they fell to their Swords, when *Philanthus* lent him such a blow on the Helmet, that one half of it fell down upon his Shoulders upon which followed whole streams of Blood; At this the whole Cirque (which consisted of Thousands of Spectators) gave a loud Shout, *Sabrinus* being Cut deep into the Scull, and having lost a great quantity of Blood, in the middle of the next Course fell headlong from his Horse. *Philanthus* leapt readily down and putting the point of his Sword to his Throat, bid him ask his Life, 'tis too late, sayes *Sabrinus*, But I'll clear my Soul from all filthy Sin before I dye, Upon which a Confessor was call'd, to whom he publickly Confest his unjust Accusation of

of the Countess, and the reasen that put him upon such a Bloody Revenge, so long as he had Breath he call'd often upon her to forgive him, which was not long, for his Wound was past Cure, and in less then half an Hour he dyed. I shall forbear to mention the loud shouts and acclamations of the people, for the Countesses deliverance, and that her Innocency was clear'd in the Face of the whole World; In the midst of all this Joy and Triumph, *Philanthus* stole privately away without being known by any Person who he was, and came over to *England*, where he never discover'd the least Syllable of what he had done to any of her owa Relations.

The Countess was now led back in Triumph, and Complemented with the Visits of all Persons of Quality, and Congratulations of all her Friends, when every one Enquir'd of her, this Gentleman's Name and Country who was her Champion, she told them, at the place of death she expected none,

none, nor knew of any, that as he came from Heaven for ought She knew he was return'd thither again, for notwithstanding the strictest Enquiry She could make, she heard no account of him. A Courser was immediately dispatch'd with Letters to give the Count a Relation of this great News, who was so extreamly Transported with it, that being but lately recover'd from a dangerous Feaver, it threw him into a Relapse of which within few dayes he dyed. But before his death, in his Cooler fits he order'd his Secretary to write a most kind and passionate Letter to the Countess to rejoice with her for her Miraculous preservation, which afterwards she receiv'd, he made his Will and left her all his whole Estate for Life, besides Jewels Plate and Money to a very great Value. Soon after his death she parted with all the Land to the next Heyr, for a Valuable consideration in Money, and return'd to England after She had been five years and three Monthes absent. Philanthus went as other Gentlemen

Gentlemen and Ladies did to give their Service and Welcom to Orithia, and Fortun'd to find her in the Dining Room all alone, who receiv'd him with all Respects, but upon discourse of the Letters extreamly blam'd his unkindness and degenerous spirit, that could value any thing to the World above the Honour and Life of a Lady for whom once he had some regard. Philanthus endeavor'd to Excuse himself from the great necessity and distress he was then under, that tho' when her Ladyship left England he was Master of a fair Estate, yet since by some extraordinary Losses he had receiv'd, and Charges in Law-Suits he was at this present reduc'd to down-Right poverty and want. She told him she was heartily sorry for it, but that Fate and Chance ran through the whole World. Company coming in, Dinner was plac'd upon the Table, and when it was almost over, Philanthus put on the Ring and presented his service to the Countess in a Glass of Wine, She presently saw the Ring and chang'd

Chang'd Colour, which was taken Notice of by my Lord her Brother, and all the Company, who ask'd if she was not well, at that she blusht again, and said yes my Lord, indifferent, however they perceiv'd some sudden alteration which they could not Guess the reason of. After Dinner was done she stopt to *Philanthus*, and taking him on one side, desir'd to know from whence he had that Ring. Madam, says he I had it from a Lady for whose sake I will never part with it. Sir, said she, I presume I know it, yes, Madam, you do so, and gave it to a Hermit on the Evening before you was to suffer. I, Madam, was that Hermit, and next day your Champion. Upon which the Countess gave the whole Relation of it to the Company, and promised Philanthus in Gratitude to him, she would make him Master of her self and all her Fortune next Morning, which was accordingly done, and the Marriage Celebrated with all pomp and Solennity.

Evadne having thus Finished her Relation, the whole Company bow'd their respects, and were all extreamly pleas'd with it, especially Melintus, who Styled it a most pleasant and divertive Story; and Philotas being next in turn, Melintus told him he remembred a Story he had formerly the happiness to hear him relate, which (if he mistook not) was the unhappy History of Leander and Clitia, and as it pleas'd then, if he would now Oblige the Company with a Recital of it, he question'd not but it would be to their intire Satisfaction, accordingly Philotas thus began.

NOVEL the Seventh.

By PHILOTAS.

The vast Number of Candles, that in the Winter Quarter are hung out every Night, and serve as an Ornament to the streets of London, began to light those who walk late without Torches, when one of the most Famous Surgeons of that populous City was sent for in great haste, and his Assistance desir'd at a House not far distant from his own, where he was immediately conducted, and there found a very Handsom Young Gentleman, (whom the Company called Leander) very desperately wounded, and upon search found he had received two dangerous pricks from a Sword ; He heard those about him whispering that he had given himself those Wounds, so unexpectedly that none could divit the evil consequence of so bloody an Enterprise : The Surgeon would have applied the first dressing to his Wounds,

but Leander would not permit him, saying, that he did not deserve longer to live on the Earth, and desired therefore that death might put a period to his Life; This gave occasion for some of the Company to Entertain an opinion that he was somewhat distemper'd in mind, whilst the rest did really believe him to be distracted, which he perceiving did earnestly desire their silence, and he would give them a Recital of his Misfortunes, accordingly he began his discourse in this manner.

" My Wife being some Months since gone
 " to divert her self at a Country-House be-
 " longing to some of her Kindred, I had
 " the Misfortune to happen into the Com-
 " pany of a Young Person, whose beauty
 " might claim precedence o're her whole
 " Sex. The charming Features of her Face,
 " and deluding witchcraft of her Tongue,
 " had such a powerful Influence o're my
 " Spirits that my Heart was suddenly Fi-
 " red with the wanton desires of an un-
 " lawful passion and an amorous inclinati-
 " on unwarily stole upon me.

" Her Lodging being in a quarter of the
 " City remote from mine, I thought I
 " might easily bring her into an opinion
 " that

" that I was a Batchellor, which I Endeav'd
 " to perswade her to, as knowing
 " such most acceptable to them, the quality
 " of Husband in such case being no ways
 " pleasing to them, by reasoun they cannot
 " hope (if occasion should so require) to
 " obtain them for their own ; I had wrought
 " my self in a short time into her favour
 " and good opinion, that all outward ap-
 " pearances perswaded me that nothing was
 " wanting on my behalf, but a good cou-
 " rage and confidence to render me happy
 " and contented, I resolved therefore vigo-
 " rously to put the Lady to it, but though
 " I made a good attaque, she made no worse
 " a defence, and told me, *that unless it*
" were in the way of Marriage, I must expect
" no favour from her. I was surprized at
 " the resistance she made, whereby I learn't
 " that outward appearances are often de-
 " ceitful, and that those Women which seem
 " most complying by the manner of their
 " carriage and conversation are quite other-
 " wise then what we take them for, when
 " they are press'd to any thing beyond the
 " bounds of an honest Affection.

" The resistance of that Lovely Maid who
 " was called *Clitia*, did but the more inflame

" me, but it also greatly perplex'd me, for
 " (in short) I was Married to a Person of
 " whom I had no reason to complain, and
 " whose return from the Country I daily
 " expected; All the protestations of Mar-
 " riage which I made to this beautiful Maid
 " avall'd me nothing, and all my Prayers
 " and intreats stood me in little stead, nei-
 " ther would the Finest arguments I could
 " invent to perswade her to yield to my
 " desires win any thing upon her, she still stood
 " firm to her first design.

" This Counterfeit modesty and Virtue
 " charm'd me with the more love, which
 " seem'd to me as the greatest Marks of the
 " entire Affection and Good-will she bore
 " me; not in the least perceiving that she
 " Entertain'd a Gallant. Named *Clitophon*,
 " who was of Intelligence with her, to draw
 " me into the snare of Matrimony with her,
 " so that I must be the Husband, and he the
 " Gallant who would continue his Pastime at
 " my Cost.

Leander beginning to grow weak, by reason
 of the great Loss of Blood he had sustained,
 was interrupted in this part of his Story,
 that care might be taken of his Wounds, but
 he would not suffer their endeavours, not-
 withstanding

wirhstanding whatsoever Entreaties they made him, or whatsoever Efforts they used to Cure him, even against his Will ; All the Compliance they could obtain of him was, that he would suffer himself to be succour'd so soon as he had Finish'd his Discourse, but was sensible all their Endeavors would come too late, for he was certain that Death (which he so much desired) would quickly put a Period to his days, they were forced to grant his Demand, though not without some Reluctancy, and then he pursu'd his Discourse after the Manner following,

My Perplexity having continued some time, and not having yet Fixed upon any Resolution, I Received a Letter from my Wife, wherein she gave an Account what day she wou'd Arrive at London. After the Reading of her Letter, I went to Clitia, and found her that day so Beautiful and Charming (in my Imagination) that forthwith there was Framed in my Mind this horrible Design, which I am about to Relate, and which Caus'd me to Promise Clitia, that within a short time I wou'd Espouse her, I then took my leave, my Mind being Fixed upon the damnable Resolution I had Pitch'd upon before ; So soon as I Arrived at my own Lodging I Refus'd this Devilish Enterprize, and took up Resolutions quite

contrary to the former, but the next day making another visit to Clitia, my depraved mind reassumed its first wicked Sentiment? and I fully determined within my self, to go in disguise and Kill my Wife in her way home, which bloody Enterprise I had no sooner Executed and returned free from discovery, but I went immediately to her House who had first inspired my Evil Genius with the wicked Sentiments of so Horrid a Murther, but Oh! the admirable Justice of Heaven! I found her dead and was informed that she was with Child by the Gallant, who had hitherto conceal'd himself from my taking Notice of him, and that she had used violent means upon her Body to force an abortion, after that I had promised her Marriage, which precipitate and cruel procedure had been the cause of her Death.

Immediately my Crime returned into my remembrance and it presented it self with such Horror to my imagination, that I could not endure to think of so vile a wretch as my self, then it was that I Framed a design to Kill my self, which just now I have put in Execution. Now that you know my Crime (added he) I cannot believe you so cruel to bestow your care in preserving a Life, which within a short time would be forced from me by the Hangman.

In

In Finishing these words he was Seized with a great weakness, and dyed in a short time after. The Company (being his Friends) desired the Surgeon not to discover any thing of the matter; and the Confession he had made of his Crimes did greatly surprize and astonish the whole Company.

The whole Company were extremely pleas'd with the Recital of this Tragical History by Philotas, which they Express'd by a grateful acknowledgement, but the Misfortune of Leander moved compassion in the minds of the Auditors, Theodosia then knowing it to be her place to conclude, declared to the Company that part of the Stories already Recited, had made an alteration in her mind, that she must of necessity pass by that she intended next, having so near affinity to the former, and proceed to

another, which she began in this manner.

NOVEL the Eighth.

By THEODOSIA.

IN the Late Reign of Queen *Mary*, *Baldwin* a Swedish Gentleman by Birth (being Younger Brother to the Connt *de Walboorgh*) espoused an English Lady, and was on his return from *Camerbury* in the County of *Kent*, to his own House not far distant from an adjacent River ; It was in the long days of Summer, when the greatest heats make the Shades to be most affected ; His Man who carried his Malle, and his two Footmen, being more thirsty than their Master, were stayed at a Tavern to drink and refresh themselves, whilst *Baldwin* went leisurely on dreaming, and arrived alone at the River side ; as he stay'd there for his Men to pass over with him, there came a handsom Young Man reasonably well Clothed, who proffer'd

proffer'd to take the Bridle of his Horse, the comely aspect of this Youth caused him to commiserate his Fortune, when questioning him what he was, the Youth with a Voice able to enchant the Rocks ; said, I am an Orphan having neither Father or Mother, my Country is the Northern part of *England* nigh to th: borders of *Scotland*, forsaken by all there, and am going towards *Normandy*, to find out an Uncle of mine, Brother to my Mother; and see if he will take pity on me, or find me out some place whereby serving, I may get my Living ; Youth, said *Baldwin*, it is easy to be seen that you have not been brought up to serve, at leastwise in painful Offices, it is true, Reply'd he, if it had pleased God to have spared me my Father, who was an Honest Merchant, I should not be reduced to this misery, but Merchants are not known till they dye, his Shop was fair, and his Credit great, but at his death all failed, and his debts were found far greater then all he had ; So that being destitute of all means, I must make a Virtue of necessity, and seek to eat my Bread by the Sweat of my Brow. *Baldwins* heart was mollifyed at this Youths Disaster, and he resolved to retain him in his Service, imagining that he had on his Forehead a certain Ray of Frendship and fidelity, weary with slaying

Staying for his Men, he enter'd the Boat with this Youth, who Named himself *Gervase*, *Baldwins* Habitation was from thence about three short English miles; wherein *Gervase* found himself but a bad Footman, yet on the way he entertain'd his new Master with such good discourse that the time seemed not long.

Being arrived home, and saluting his Wife, he said unto her, Madam, I bring to you a new Guest, whose good Countenance serves for Letters of Credence, I have destinated him to wait on our Son (this was a Child of some Nine or Ten years of Age,) his Lady looking on *Gervase* found him to be perfectly acceptable, and praised her Husbands judgement, for applying him so worthily, as to wait on their Son. *Vincent* (for that was the Childs Name) was in a short time so taken with the Conversation of *Gervase*, and *Gervase* betook himself with so much care and diligence to tend and serve him, that Father Mother and Son, were equally satisfied therewith, the whole Family taking extream delight in the modest behaviour, gentle disposition and charming Conversation of this Beautiful Young Man, which could not but Charm the most Savage Spirits.

But,

But, Alas ! Beauty that acceptable Gift
 of Heaven, as 'tis a pleasing illusion of the
 Sence, so 'tis a Snare to the Soul, it Ty-
 rannically extendeth its power over the
 heart of *Aurelia*, *Baldwins* Lady, insomuch
 that Love and Honour are at strife which
 shall most predominate, the one striking
 her Soul with a cold fear, the other with
 a burning desire ; but all the efforts of ho-
 nour were vain, Love usurping Sole Domi-
 nation over her heart ; When having made
 choice of one of her Maids (Named *Judith*)
 for her Confident, She made known to her
 with what Disease she was infected, and
 how she was forc'd to seek Remedy from
 the Serpent that had bit her, *Judith* pro-
 miseth her Mistriss to assist her with the
 utmost of her endeavors, although her thoughts
 were quite contrary to what her Mouth
 uttered, for she was struck with the same
 Dart her self, however she thinking it a
 probable means to oblige *Gervase*, that he
 might no longer continue the disdain where-
 with he had hitherto repayed her Love,
 she declared to him the passion and affection
 of *Aurelia* towards him, *Gervase* who had
 divers times shewed unto *Judith* that those
 discourses were no ways pleasing to him, re-
 jected

jected this also ; *Judith* finding she could not obtain Credence in his mind, Counsell'd her Mistress to speak her self, if she would be understood, this froward Youth having no Ears to her perswasions ; What Grief felt *Aurelia* to find she had in vain declared her self to this Maid, whose Answer was a sad presage of the small hopes she might have to bring *Gervase* to her desire, what new pains took she to pluck this Thorn out of her Soul, but at the first Sight of this fair Object, all these Endeavours vanish'd into Smoak, and new fires took possession of her Heart ; *Judith* had brought them together, and to give her Mistress more freedom, retired her self into another Chamber, *Aurelia* then talks to *Gervase* with Stuttering Language, and with anxious fears, like unto those of a Guilty Person before a Judge, she Labours to make him Susceptible of her Torment.

Fair *Gervase* is Amaz'd to find himself alone without a Witness, by a Woman which uttered unto him such Language, as he could not hear without Extream perplexity, the different Changes of his Colour, sufficiently witnessed by h's Face the inward Resentments of his mind, his Eyes bended

to the Ground, his Silence, and his immovable Countenance gave *Aurelia* an Answer which was not pleasing; Her presents were Liberal, her promises large, her intreatyes unseemly, her Sighs Vehement, her tears in abundance, but these Winds and these Waters were as Storms against a Rock; *Gervase* appeared insensible like the Statue *Pigmalion* fell in Love withall; The heat of Love pierced by a bloody contempt, commonly turns into a furious Wrath, *Aurelia* was upon the point of this Change, when *Gervase* to conjure this Tempest, and cut out the Root of this Disease at its first breeding, resolves to Unmask the Counterfeit, and cause pity of himself in her, who Craved it of him. Madam, (said he, unbuttoning his Doublet) behold these Breasts, and ask no Answer, except you will see me dye at your Feet with shame; Men are not better known by the Beard than Women by their Breasts; This sight left no manner of doubt in the Soul of *Aurelia*, but that *Gervase* was a Woman, and as it is said, that Thunder falling upon a Serpent, in lieu of taking away life, doth but take away his Venom, so this sudden Clap rooting out of this Womans Heart all the poyson of her bad

bad desires, took not away her Love to Gervase, but left it there with pity, and this pity bred a desire to know the fortune of this Man-Maid, that she might seek to yield her some Assistance in her Disaster, and with this intent said, since Heaven hath made me Fortunate by this knowledge, and changed the Rock whereon I would have made Shipwreck, into a Haven of safety for mine Honour, I do promise you for your freeness towards me, to conceal your Sex as long as you please, and if you desire any help, you may as freely discover the cause of your being in this State, assuring you that you shall find in me all the Assistance which you can Expect from a Woman desirous of the preservation both of your Honour and of your Person.

Madam, Replyed Gervase, mischiefs are so contagious, that the very Recital of them doth ever breed some Alteration, even in the calmest Spirits: Let me therefore Grone under the burthen of my Misfortunes, and suffer not your Felicity to be troubled by the Recital of them; Rest contented to take Pity on a Poor Maid, who puts her Honour and her Life into your Protection: This Evasion did but whet in Aurelia that Curiosity so Natural in Women

men, and gave her occasion to reply thus,
as Physicians heal no Diseases, but those
they know, so likewise cannot I assist you
in your Misfortunes, if you discover not unto
me the cause thereof, to the End that
knowing who you are, and in what manner
you came to be in this disguise, I may be-
have my self towards you, as I ought, and
since there is a Remedy for all things but
Death, strive to re-establish your self in the
degree from whence Fortune it seems hath
made you fall, for you have a Ray of No-
bility on your Brow shines through the
Clouds of your present Condition, and
makes it appear even to the weakest un-
derstanding, that you have not been bred
after a common manner ; Madam Replyed
Gervase, my woes are past Recovery, since they
proceed from a Death, and therefore being my mi-
series ought to be put among incurable Maladies,
let me intreat you to cast away that needless
Care which you take to Cure me, and let me
pass away under your Protection my small re-
mainder of Life, as well I feel that Sorrow and
Grief for my Fault do undermine it by degrees,
and will not let me long Survive him, without
whom the Fairest days are to me as darkest,
and like a Lingering Death, in saying this,

Gervase

Gervase let fall from his Eyes, tears resembling those Drops of Rain which the ardent Heat of the Sun doth Squeeze out in the fairest days of Summer ; but so far was *Aurelia's* curious desire from being quenched, that this Water resembled that which Smiths put on their Cinders, whereby the Fire is increased and not put out ; Therefore extraordinarily pressing *Gervase* to disclose unto her his Adventures, he was constrained to satisfy her, when having dry'd his Eyes, and obtain'd a Truce from his Sighs, he began in this manner.

I am Daughter to a Cambridge shire Gentleman, of the Antient order of Knight hood, he hath divers Children, and I am the Second of his Daughters, and the cause of this dishonour, and trouble of his House, Baptisme Named me, Sophronia, which was the Name of my Mother who dyed when I was but Six Years of Age ; When my Sister and my self were grown up to some years of Maturity, Love assailed us and made a Conquest o're our Hearts,

My Eldest Sister loved a Young Gentleman whom she Wedded not ; But to obey the Will of our Father She Wedded an Old Gentleman whom she never affected : She made me such strange Complaints of being Tyed to a Man she loved

loved not, that it seemed she endured the Torment which that Tyrant inflicted, who fastened dead Bodies to the Living, till they dyed in this Cruel languishing manner; Nay, she described to me, her Torment to be equal unto that which is suffered in Hell. And indeed such may one call a Marriage wherein the parties do neither agree in the Wills of the Heart, nor the delights of the Body, this misery which I considered in her, made me resolve to avoid the like, how dear soever it cost me. But, Alas! to shun one Guise, I cast my self into another, and I may say, if my Sisters Marriage were a Hell, the Fairies carried the Torches at mine, and conducted me to a Disaster worse than Hell.

Valerius a Young Gentleman, but a Younger Brother of our Neighbourhood, had my first, and shall have my last affection: He was placed at the University to Study the Law, and Cambridge not being many miles distant from my Fathers House he made me frequent Visits, and we lived some years in so perfect a Correspondence; That if my Father would have Matched us together, the Elysian Fields could never have equalled our Felicity. But because this Young Man could not make so large a Joynure as he required, my Father would never consent to our Union: But I fearing a Lot like my Sisters, would

would needs Spin my destinies with my own
Hands, and so have I fashioned the Cord which
hath drag'd me to the misfortune wherein I am,
Valerius ever behaved himself towards me with
a very incomparable modesty, so that it was not
so much by his Solicitation, as by my own proper
inclination, that we made reciprocal promises of
Marriage, accompanied with so many Solemn
Oathes, and such horrible Execrations against
the party that should violate the same, that it I
had had but the least thought of breaking the
same, I should not have believed Heaven suffi-
ciently furnished with Thunders to strike me ac-
cording to my desert. After some time we
Consummated our Clandesline Marriage, and
resolved whensoever I should find my self loaden
with the Fruits of Lucina, to take Flight with
my Husband rather than undergo the Thunder
of my Fathers anger.

This happened not but a more terrible Tem-
pest overtook us, which brought me to the wrack
wherein you see me, Sir G--- a Yorkshire Knight
who had been in Marriage but Three years, and
was then lately become a Widower being about
Thirty five years of Age, happened to Lodge at
my Fathers in his Journey to London being an
acquaintance of my Fathers formerly in his Tra-
vels, he found I knew not what in my Face that
liked

liked him, he was a Match so advantagious, that to see me, to desire me in Marriage of my Father, and obtain me, were all such sudden Blows, that I had neither time to foresee them, nor to shield my self from them. My Father (without consulting my will) told me that he had disposed of me to Sir G--- and that I must dispose my self to receive him for my Husband in some few days, if a Thunderbolt had fallen at my Heels I could not have been more astonished; I made no Answer to my Father for what could I have said that would have pleased him, and oppose Cold Excuses to his resolutions, had been of no more Effect than Bullets of Snow against the Sun-Beams, I resolved suddenly to make Effects speak, and that was all that I could in so pressing a necessity, my Father took my Silence for consent.

Next day my amorous Widower came to see me, and after the first Complements of a first interview, he would have offered me his Service, under the Allowance (said he) of my Father, my Father (said I) hath not willed me to receive your Service, but your Commands, obligeing me to behold you as a Master, this proceeding is to be admired thus to give away free Persons without their own consent, I am born his Daughter, and not his Slave: However I declare to you that

that I belong to a greater Master, having made a Vow to him that made Heaven and Earth, never to be any Bodice but his : If it had pleased you to have seen me before you had spoke to my Father, I had saved you the Labour of asking a thing which you cannot Lawfully get nor possess without Sacrilege : Never did I behold a Man more Amaz'd than he, when by this free declaration he saw his hopes undermined to the very Foundation, he feared God, and therefore I could not oppose any thing of more force to stay his desires, for Answer I had none other, but that he was sorry to have been troublesome to my designs, yet he believed a Dispensation might Remedy all this, if I would give Ear thereto, I told him a dispensation presupposed some reasonable cause, and that I saw no necessity to reake a Vow which I had made without necessity. He sees my Father, and communicates my Answer to him : Who instantly falls into anger, and from thence into injurious words and Threats. He had once gotten knowledge of my affection to Valerius, and had interdicted me the commerce thereof, and now presently believes, That in despite of that, I had made this Vow, and (such is the Tyranny of Paternal Authority) he imagined that I could not Vow without his consent, he immediately consults a Civilian, who gave
him

him to understand that nothing was more easy, than to get a Dispensation of this Kow, he who was no less desirous to have Sir G.---- for his Son in Law, than Sir G.---- to have me for his Wife, gets a Dispensation, and all preparations being made for our publick betrothing, and the Articles signed between Sir G.---- and my Father, what should I have done ? declare my Clandestine marriage Consummated with Valerius, no, I had not Brav's enough in my Face, to undergo so much shame, besides I shold have Enjoyed my Husbands Life to manifest danger ; The Council we took was to retire disguised from the Country to London, and from thence to France, he had for some time born Armes under a Prince of the house of Austria in the Wars betwixt the French and the Spaniards, in which he always behaved himself with that Skill and Valour that he hrd gain'd acquaintance with the most Noted Officers of the Army, and there we thought we might Live in Shelter, and in Case of pursuit that we might Sail from thence into Holland and hide our selves from the fury of my Father, he Clothed me in Mans Apparel as you see, and in this manner we left Cambridgeshire, passing through London, we were on our journey towards Dover, where we design'd to take Shipping for France.

But Fortune my Capital Enemy, to end on me
 the last Stroak of her Vengeance, permitted that
 as we crost a Forrest, we were set upon by four
 Theives, who had given Valerius twoWounds before
 he could put himself in a Posture of defence, as soon
 as he had drawn his Sword he ran him through
 who had first Wounded him, the others to revenge
 the Death of their Fellow made an end of him
 presently, affrighted as I was and dazzled with
 the Glittering of so many Swords, I fled into
 the Thick of the Wood, where turning my Horse
 loose I remained till midnight with dolours of
 fears, at last under the Moons pale Light, I
 began to seek what I feared to meet with; alas,
 I found Valerius naked (for these Theives had
 taken away his very Skirt, and pierced him
 through in so many places, that I believe their
 Rage extended to give him many thrusts after
 his Death, at his Feet lay also their Fellow
 stretch'd along Naked, whose Face they had
 mangied that he might not be Known, I was so
 overcome with sorrow, that had it not been for
 a secret fear of Eternal Damnation which Seiz-
 ed my Soul, I had a Thousand times struck a
 Knife into my Heart, I past the rest of the
 Night in Griefs which cannot be imagined, and
 in troubles unconceiveable, for me to return to
 my Friends after so Gross a fault, was a thing

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whereunto I could not resolve, nor on which side to turn, in a Country altogether unknown to me; At last I resolved to give my self over unto Divine Providence, and to tend towards those in France, whereof my Husband had so much told me; And after I had wet him with tears, I fled from this infamous Wood for fear of being apprehended as Guilty, having passed along till I had lost Sight of the Forrest, I hapned I know not how to be at the River, when my Master arrived there to pass, I help'd him down from his Horse, and afterwards to get up again when we were on the other side, he asked me who I was, I made him believe what I would to cover my true disgrace, under a feigned History, he took me to serve your Son, a place proportionable to my strength, and wherein I intended to expect with patience how God would dispose of me, but you world needs with pity take some part in my pain, but I humbly intreat you, Madam, let that pity be to keep close that Secret which you have Commanded me to discover to you, and to be careful in preserving that small remainder of Honor in this miserable Creature whom Excessive, but Lawful Love of a Husband hath born into extremities whereunto you see her now reduced; Gervase Ended in this manner the Recital of her

Fortune, falling down on her Knees before *Aurelia*, who in Compassion mingled her tears with the tears of this disconsolate Woman, and Kissing and Embracing her, promised never to forsake her, and to have the same care of her as if she were her own Daughter.

After that time reason took place in the affection of *Aurelia*, from whence it had been drawn by paſſion, her actions were better ordered, her flame Sweeter and more Moderate; it was not ſo with *Judith* whose paſſion augmented daily by the Shunnings, Refusals, and contempt of *Gervase*, which this Foolish Wench attributed unto the pride which ſhe thought he took in the Enjoyment of his Mistress, and though *Aurelia* (without discovering the Secret of *Gervase*) assured her that her Love was converted into Friendſhip, and *Gervase* was the moſt Chrift and Virtuous Youth in the World, this Maid heated by another Fire, imagined that *Aurelia* held this diſcourse, but to cover her Game, whilſt ſhe poffeffed her *Adonis*, and truly *Judith's* Suspicions were not without ſome shew or likelyhood of Ground, for *Aurelia* now beholding *Gervase* but as a Woman, uſed ſo much freedom with him, and

and made him come into her Chamber at such Suspitions Hours, that the least Credulous would have been tempted to take it ill; and this was that put *Judith* into a desperate jealousy, which peevish Humour made her do a base, and Treacherous Act, that caused a Tragical Event, and a Misfortune which gave birth unto a prosperity, and thus it was: After she saw that all her Solicitations to fair *Gervase* were lost Labours, and imagining that the Refusals were disdains, being stung with anger at these imaginary contempts, she resolv'd seeing she could not content her Love, to satisfie her Revenge, and undo her Rival Mistress, together with him that would not correspond unto her affections, it was by an Advertisement she gave her Master of the bad dealings of *Aurelia* and *Gervase*, whereof she shewed such apparent Colours, that *Baldwin* nothing doubted but that he was dishonoured by his Wife.

Immediately then how to Revenge it at full, he makes shew of lying forth, and by the help of *Judith* hides himself in a Closet near *Aurelia's* Bed-Chamber, this Lady who took extream delight in *Gervase*, and in making him relate the particularities of his Houfe and Country, of his Love and Fortune,

failed not to make him come at Night,
 when she would put him into his discourse,
 and fall a sleep thereon, but whilst she is in
 Bed and *Gervase* sitting at her Beds-Head
 talking to her, *Baldwin* is preparing Fire
 and Sword to revenge the Injury, which he
 believes to be but too Apparent, he starts
 forth of his Ambuscado, and comes with his
 Pistol in Hand, crying with full Mouth, *Ha?*
Accursed Woman now is the time that thou shalt
Wash my Spoted Honour with thy Blood, and that
both your Self and your Adulterer shall pay in-
terest for the wrongs you have done me, and
 without hearing any Answer shoots of his
 Pistol, thinking to dash out *Aurelia's* brains;
 but she turning her Head aside, the shot
 went into the Feathers without doing any
 other Effect, only that it burned the Cheek
 of this poor Lady, who in this trouble mis-
 doubted the caufe of her Husbands Wrath,
 but had no more leisure than to cry out,
O Sir, Gervase is a Woman, wherein *Baldwin*
 whose Sword was already drawn to end
 therewith what the Fire had spared, as if a
 flash of Lightning had dazzled his eyes, stood
 in Suspence at these words, when *Gervase*
 more dead than Alive, cast her self at his
 feet, and with the discovery of her Breasts
 assured

assured him that *Aurelia's* Words were but too true; And presently to clear his understanding, of so many confusions wherewith his Soul was troubled, *Gervase* though trembling, related to him the whole History, as you have heard of her Misfortune, which drew tears from the Eyes of *Baldwin*, and made him infinitely repent what he had done; mean time Remedies were applyed to the burn on *Aurelia's* face which beside the pain threatened her with a great deformity, but whether it were the inflamation that redoubled, or through the extream terrore which she had felt in hearing a Pistol Thunder at her Ear, and see her self near losing her Life, she fell into a strong *Fever*, which in three days lay'd her in her Grave; *Baldwin* lamented much for her, both because he truly Loved her, and for that he saw himself to be the cause of her death, he had almost discharged the burthen of his Wrath on *Judith* and Sacrificed her to the Manes of her Mistress, but when he knew that she her self had been deceived, and that the Conjectures of the Evil had been so strong, he was contented only to discharge her his House.

Mean time *Gervase* having changed her Habit and being become *Sophronia*, appeared

so fair in the Eyes of *Baldwin*, that Love being Enter'd into his Soul, by the two Gates of Beauty and pity, he resolved to Marry her as being a Gentlewoman of good descent, and the Widow of a Gentleman; *Sophronia* perceiving her Fortane to be desperate if she with open Armes received not this occasional proffer, immediately consented to *Baldwin's* proposition by a Solemn Marriage; and since having advice that *Sophronia's* Father was dead: *Baldwin* had that part of the inheritance that fell to her thereby, which amounted to as good a portion as he could have had with a Wife chosen out of his own Country.

That *Sophronia's* Misfortune was by Divine Providence changed into a good Fortune, and that moment of time intended for her Death, was to her a beginning of a Happier Life, it may be that the patience which she shewed in that extream adversity, for the losf of *Valeius*, and her Wife Carriage and behaviour in the Government of *Baldwin's* Son, brought her to this felicity not without great wonder to little *Vincent*, who saw his Tutor in a short time changed to his Mother in Law.

As Theodosia had concluded her Story, in came Count Melintus his Uncle and some other Persons of Honour from Court to give him a Visit, upon which the Company broke up. Melintus paying his more particular thanks to Theodosia for her Delightful Story, which was Seconded by all the Gentlemen and Ladies, and as they took leave Melintus told the Company he was in Arrears himself, but must beg Pardon till their next Meeting, when he did not question but he should discharge himself to their Satisfaction.

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